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The Long Island

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FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Fishing Magazine in the United States!

JANUARY 11th, 1979



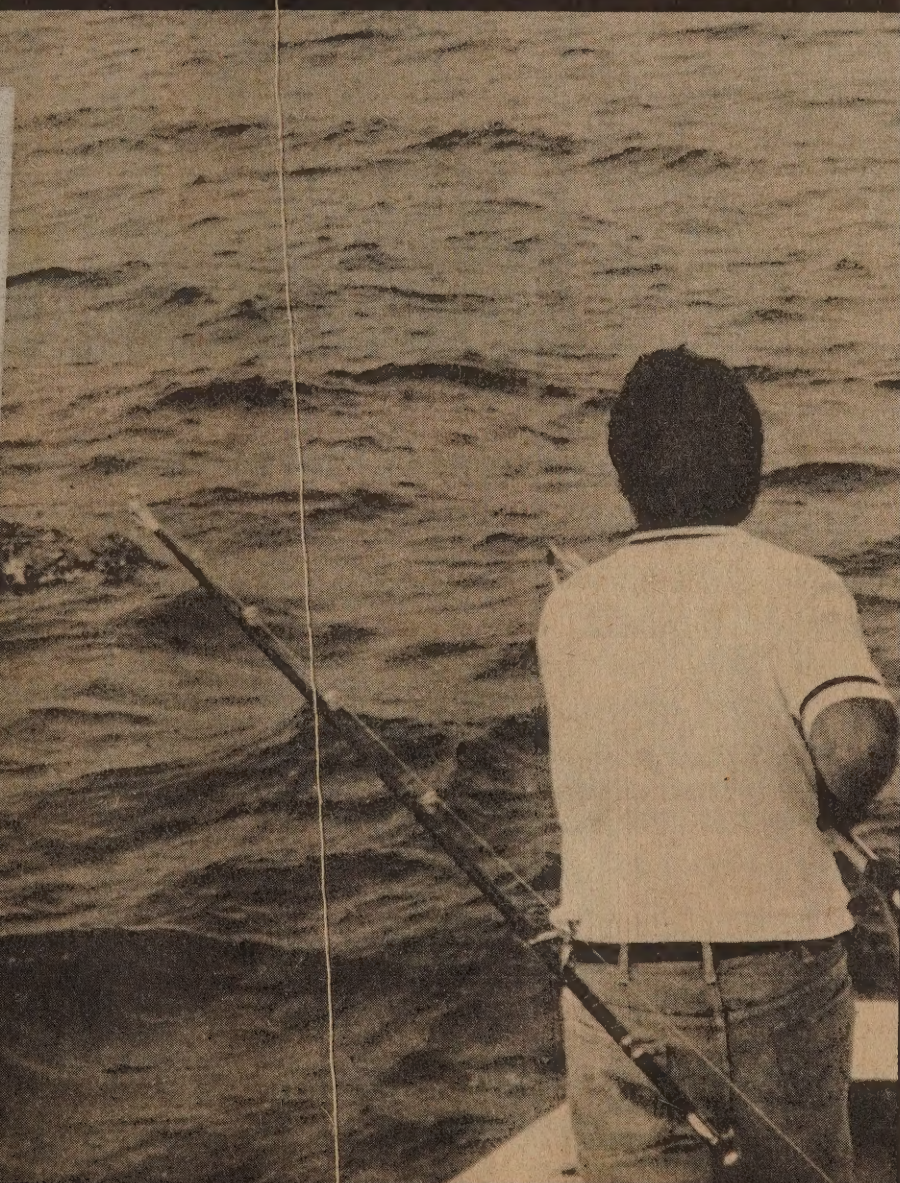
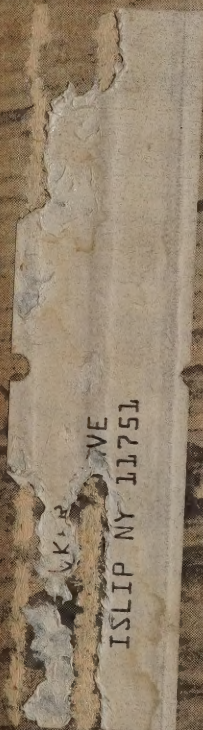
Volume 14, Number 2



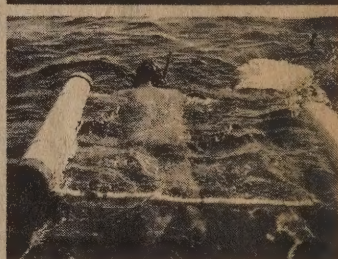
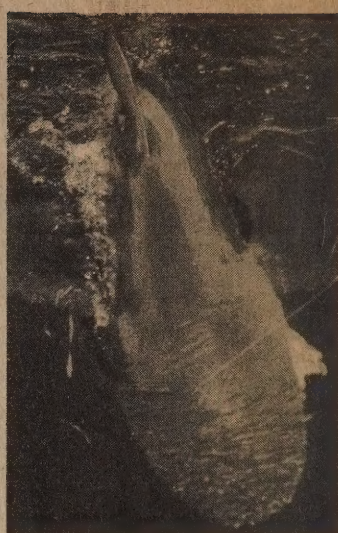
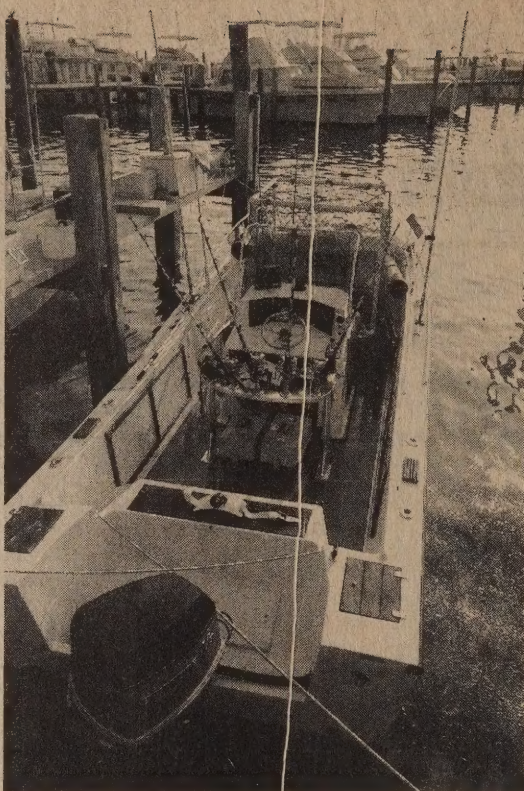
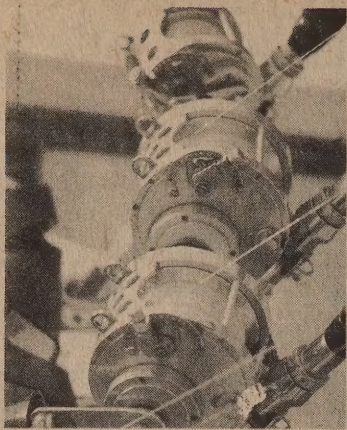
14th Year of Publishing



FIFTY-CENTS



Boat Show Issue



Mako Produces Film on Shark Tagging

Mako Marine produced a 22 minute color film on Shark tagging, at Walker's Cay in the Bahamas. The purpose of this film is twofold: First, to educate the angler on why and how to tag sharks. Secondly, to show how today's new breed of fisherman are running great distances in small boats, to catch large fish. The film is being used by marine biologists in their shark tagging and research programs. You'll enjoy the film, both from it's educa-

tional value, as well as from it's excellent underwater footage. The film is free to fishing, and conservation and other interested groups. We only ask you to return it as soon as you are through.

Mako is the largest builder in the world of center console fishing boats. Mako takes fishing and all aspects of the sport very seriously. We hope you enjoy the film. For information, write Mako or see a Mako dealer.




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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

HOOKS

About the Cover—

A white marlin being fought by Thierry Passarelli breaks the surface south of Block Island. While August may be a long way off, everyone can get in on the action at the Boat Show which begins this week at the N.Y. Coliseum.

Richard Reina
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EDITOR

Al Ristori
CONSERVATION EDITOR

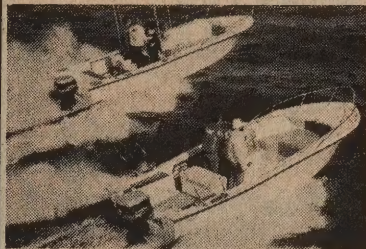
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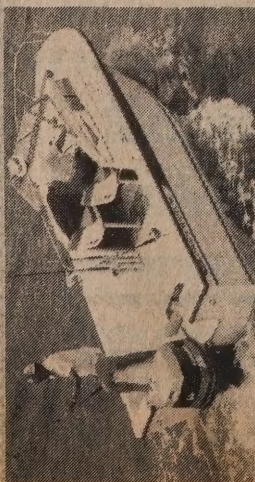
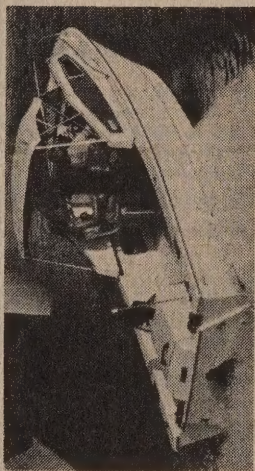
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Pass It On...

DUES FOR NEW YORK SPORTFISHING COUNCIL

Your annual membership in the New York Sportfishing Council becomes renewable on January 1, 1979, and we trust you shall continue your membership in the Council. You or your organization is what the Council is about. We represent you, your ideas and what you feel needs correction or change.

The Council has been in existence for over a year and it was a period of learning and education for all of us. There are numerous problems that seriously affect us fishermen and the Council now understands how to deal with these situations. It takes more than just wanting changes or merely objecting to a crisis. Above all, we must have political backing before attempting any changes or revisions of laws. We of the Council have succeeded in securing the political strength we will need and are ready to defend our positions and secure our goals.

There are only two weaknesses of the organization that can cause us to falter when we meet our opposition. We must be financially strong and great in representative number. That is why your membership is vital to our survival and our effectiveness. Many smaller organizations for years have tried to institute laws and regulations to protect our environment and were unsuccessful. The reason, they were few in number and financially could not offer strong resistance.

It took the Council a year to organize and prepare a nucleus of individuals who can defend your positions and attack our adversaries. They are informed, knowledgeable and prepared to react to the needs of the fishing fraternity.

So if you feel our natural resources are being invaded and concerned about its future, renew your membership. The Council promises to continue to be your representative in all issues in which you show concern and will keep you better informed of our progress than in the past. In place of large general meetings, we will now use the media to inform you, and our phone is always available for your comments. In addition, we are further available should you want us personally to attend your meetings to enlighten you on our progress.

The N.Y.S.C. is what has been needed in New York for over thirty years, an organization of fishermen, fighting for and protecting their interests. Renew your membership and support the Council, and above all take an active interest in its

programs. For further info about joining the N.Y.S.C., call or write, George Gerhold, President, 4055 Broadway, Island Park, New York 11558.

AFTMA STATEMENT OF POSITION REGARDING FRESHWATER RECORD KEEPING

Recent changes and decisions regarding the important responsibilities of maintaining accurate international records for freshwater fish have necessitated that the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association present its philosophy and position on this matter.

The industry recognizes the right and commends the efforts of the number of organizations across the United States to maintain freshwater fishing records. Such actions have served to promote participations and interest in recreational fishing which is a primary concern of the industry. While it is not suggested that current record keeping activities by various organizations be diminished, it is stressed that such a diversification of record keeping sources should not serve to confuse fishermen. Thus, it is AFTMA's position that an official source for freshwater record keeping be established and supported.

Because of the recent transfer of excellent freshwater records historically maintained by Field & Stream to the International Game Fish Association, plus the tremendous international credibility of IGFA and their experience via saltwater record keeping program, AFTMA emphatically goes on record as endorsing the International Game Fish Association as the official source for world-wide freshwater record keeping.

IGFA TAKES OVER SPIN FISHING RECORDS

During the month of June, 1978, representatives of the International Spin Fishing Association, Gene Aylesworth, Neil Haeger and Dick Ream, met with IGFA Trustees Arthur Hall and Horace Witherspoon to lay the groundwork for the transfer of the ISFA record keeping system to IGFA. At that time, it was decided that ISFA would complete their awards year and plan for the actual transfer shortly thereafter.

In a recent issue of the ISFA newsletter "Tote Sheet," Dick Ream announced that their current procedures and trophy program will continue through October 31, 1978, and that the actual cessation of ISFA as an entity will take place December 1, 1978. Mr. Ream stated: "IGFA's established and expanding worldwide contacts in compiling and maintaining saltwater records and their recent move to freshwater areas makes them the logical recipient of the ISFA fresh and saltwater files."

In planning for this transfer, E.K. Harry, President of IGFA, stated: "We in IGFA feel that the officials of ISFA have made a wise decision, and IGFA looks forward to including



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these 25 years of record keeping data with our own extensive files as well as those recently acquired from **Field & Stream** and the Saltwater Fly Rodders of America, International. The die is now cast for IGFA to develop into the worldwide authority for game fish records."

After this transfer has been effected and a thorough study has been made of these records and the supporting data, an announcement will be made relating to the future of this program.

CLUB NEWS

HIGH & DRY FISHING CLUB AWARDS

On December 16, the Second Annual Awards Dinner of the High & Dry Fishing Club was held. At that time, plaques were awarded to anglers who posted the largest fish in the following categories:

Blackfish: 3 lbs. 7 oz.—John Vesik;
Bluefish: 16 lbs. 8 oz.—Jack Hasselbring; **Fluke:** 4 lbs. 7 oz.—Lou Angelone, and **Weakfish:** 10 lbs. 6 oz.—Pete McCloat.

A plaque was also presented for the Fisherman of the Year, an award determined by an individual's performance throughout the fishing season. The winner was Jack Hasselbring.

NEW BOOKS

LITTORAL SOCIETY PUBLISHES "FISH STORIES"

A collection of eight articles on fish—their habitat, their behavior, their pursuit—has just been published by the American Littoral Society, Highlands, N.J.

The book, "Fish Stories," covers such subjects as marlin fishing, observing fish behavior while diving, and the coastal habitats of a Hudson River tributary, Chesapeake Bay, and the Florida Panhandle.

Among the authors are: Bob Boyle, a senior editor, **Sports Illustrated**; Hal Lyman, publisher of **Salt Water Sportsman**; Eugenie Clark, Professor of Zoology at the University of Maryland and author of "The Lady and the Spear" and "The Lady and the Sharks"; and George Reiger, columnist for **Field and Stream**.

Also Anne Rudloe, who covers her study of horseshoe crabs and other marine animals of Florida's Gulf Coast; Barbara Porter who fishes the Baltimore Canyon, and Bori Olla, a

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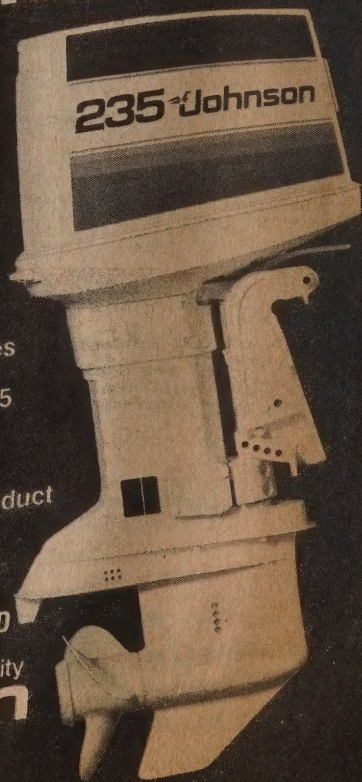
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behaviorist at the Sandy Hook Marine Laboratory, who tells of diving and fish watching at Fire Island Inlet.

Nelson Bryant, outdoor columnist for *The New York Times*, writes in his afterword: "From George Reiger's salt marsh music, which he feels is Brahms, to Eugenie Clark's sand-diving fishes, or Bori Olla's tautog, they hint at the multitudinous ways in which men and women hear the call of the sea, whether as a poet or scientist (or both), a casual observer or an angler."

The 75-page collection is available from the Littoral Society, Highlands, N.J. 07732, for \$3 postpaid. Proceeds from the sale of the book help support the Society's coastal conservation projects.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO DOC GRELL

After reading your article on "Cod Fishing the Fingers" Part II, I have a few suggestions for you on cleaning the bottom of cod.

Here are three tips: 1. Buy a boat of 50 feet or more so you can put over 50 or 60 rods at one time. 2. Get a portable pound net that can be lowered to the bottom and trap everything that moves. 3. Invent a vacuum tube that will enable you to clean the bottom of cod in the area.

There are still a few of us around that get a kick out of fishing with one rod and whether we catch fish or not,

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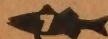
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Most of your articles are interesting, but come on —seven dead sticks, is like not fishing at all. **Bob Scher, Bayside, N.Y.**

READER COMMENTS

This is a "catch-all" of thoughts and suggestions that come to mind while reading each issue of the LIF:

Thanks to the lady who converts everything to readable English. She received only one mention this year. I can't recall her name. She sure makes your writers look good.

Doctor Muller's lighter, offhand columns, such as his "Fisherman's Quiz", in the Aug. 31 issue, are enough to make one go out again after being skunked. His "professional" items are also important to me. Certainly, I want to know what fishing my grandsons will find forty to fifty years from now. I don't want them to say, in 2028, "My old Grandpa caught them all." I didn't—believe me.

Matt Ahern: The only objection I have to his "old-timer" format is that he's 64! My age! I'm just beginning this great avocation. Matt: the kids who claim to get a laugh out of your page are "midgets shouting from the shoulders of giants." Please ignore them and tell us what you recall about the Commodore (Long Beach) years ago—when my Dad took me. What a trip that was from Maspeth. But Matt, you should know that your writing prompted me to look at real estate in the Shinnecock area. And those snappers were as big as you said they would be.

Some open boat captains should know that they would get more regulars if they didn't reserve the whole stern before any passengers come aboard and if they announced the pool prizes before the mates "confide" them to the winners—when it is too late to ask questions. I know, because I recently won with a 9 lb. "albie."

How about a L.I.F. gift subscription program? Reader's Digest does it with \$3 off. The National Geographic even gets us to pay in June for subscription beginning in January. And how about a L.I.F. index or articles by type of fish or area of interest: rod building, boating, reel care, etc. It could be sold once every three years.

Covers I didn't like: Vol. 13, #35 (wives find enough objections to fishing without adding belly buttons) and Vol. 13, #42. I'd rather see what Matt Ahern looks like, instead of some store's pet ape.

What are L.I.F.'s objections to a bridge across L.I. Sound? The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel is great for fishing down there from all I hear. Why not let us recent subscribers know why you're opposed.

What did "fishermen" Oliver and Onorato do with 600 pounds of fish (Nov. 2 issue, #44, page 25)? What a needless slaughter of stripers. And you encourage it. No wonder I can't

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Mariner is the design product of a joint venture of two of the largest two-cycle engine manufacturers in the world. In most places outside of the U.S., people cannot afford the luxury of a motor designed just for a weekend fishing trip or an afternoon of water skiing. Outboards must work day after day for transportation, fishing or exploration. It's often hundreds of miles between factory-trained servicemen.

So Mariner built a line of outboards just for this rugged type of use. Built them to run day after day without complicated service. They're simple, strong

and non-temperamental, from the little 2 horse fishing motor to the sizzling-hot 175.

But a fine outboard is no better than the dealer who sells it.

And matches it to a boat. And services it. That's why we've chosen to grow with a hand-picked group of the finest outboard dealers in the

country. Openings are still available in some areas, however, and we hope to fill them in the next few months.

We're looking for more dealers who want to make Mariner the heart of their business and get in on the ground floor with this superior new outboard. It's a product that can hack it with the big brands, and it's already making plenty of waves in the U.S. market.

Initial cost is probably about 1/3 what it would cost to become a dealer for the other major brands—if they had a dealer opening available in your area. Remember too, there are no *old* Mariner motors to stock parts for. With a \$2,000 start-up parts kit, you're ready to service every Mariner in the line.

We'd like the chance to tell you the whole story.

If you're interested in becoming a Mariner outboard dealer, call Charlie Rahner at this toll free number: 1-800-526-3820. (If calling from New Jersey, dial 1-201-249-2500.)

Or write us at this address:

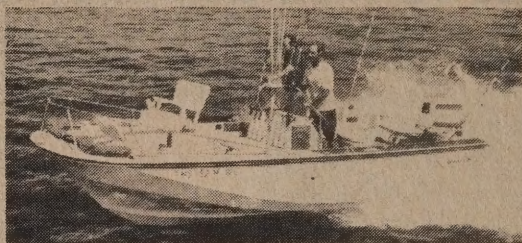


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catch my first striped bass. Why try?
Al Lynch, Valley Stream, N.Y.
P.S.—Many of your pictures are
excellent. Especially the close-ups.

WANTS LIVE BAIT

I am writing to you hoping you can either help me directly or else recommend another source.

I am interested in purchasing live killies for bait, 52 weeks throughout the year in large quantities. Minimum 100 dozen at least twice a week = 200 dozen a week. I would also like to have them delivered to Warrensburg, New York. I was thinking of Greyhound or Adirondack Trailways. Method of payment and other details can be worked out to mutual satisfaction. Please advise as soon as possible. Thank you. **George Slatos**, 1833 Yates Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10461.

WANTS TO SEE

IMPROVED FISHING FACILITIES

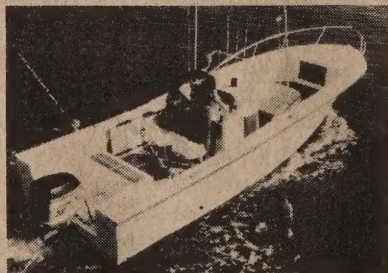
In response to your Editorial on 11-9-78: I could see a small fee being paid for a saltwater license. Providing, as your article explained, that the monies collected would only be spent on fishing needs—such as piers, docks, reefs, launching ramps, etc. I also agree party and charter pay a yearly fee. I think that a small charge should be paid extra when renting a skiff or rowboat. A number of people who like to fish can only get out occasionally and I do not think it fair to have them pay a yearly fee for a license. When it will possibly be used only two or three times a year.

I already pay a fee for my boat and trailer. You previously stated in other editions that the State built launching ramps upstate, rather than Long Island, Westchester, or NYC shores. When most of the revenue comes from Long Island, Westchester, New York area. I live in the Bronx and know of no state run ramps in either the Pelham Bay or Westchester area. I have been turned away from launching areas as I was not a resident. I have had fishing days ruined because of this. Glen Island has a ramp I can use before and after the season; Long Island, I found the same thing. WHAT GOOD IS IT THEN? There are a few private ramps, but they are in bad shape, as damage to both boat and body are probable.

That is why I am in favor of a saltwater license. IF the money collected was to go to fishing needs and in the betterment of fishing.

Thank you for reading this letter, as I wanted you to know my feelings. A LIF reader and admirer. **Dominick Perrone**, Bronx, NYC.

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"How to Wrap a Rod with Gudebrod" features the complete line of Gudebrod Rod Building Accessories and explains how to use them in terms the amateur can understand and the professional will appreciate.

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BOATING

POWER SQUADRON TO CONDUCT 3 FREE BOATING COURSES

The Hempstead Bay Power Squadron will conduct free courses in boating, at the following schools, starting at 8PM:

Hewlett H.S.—Jan. 9, 1979.
West Hempstead H.S.—Feb. 6, 1979.
N. Valley Stream H.S.—Jan. 15,
N. Valley Stream H.S.—Jan. 15, 1979.

The course is open to men, women and youngsters. Youngsters must be at least 12 years of age, and must come with a parent or guardian. Boat ownership is not required for anyone.

The ten week course will cover important phases of boating practice, including rules and regulations, boat handling, trailering, water skiing and other subjects which lead to safe happy boating. The course will prove to be a very rewarding experience.

FREE BASIC BOATING CLASS

The Great South Bay Power Squadron will conduct a free basic boating class for the general public. The classes will be held in the J.F.K. Elementary School, on Woodland Drive, East Islip, with registration on January 9, 1979, and the first night class on January 16, 1979 at 8PM.

This course is a must for new or prospective boat owners. The course is also a great refresher for "Old Salts."

Instructions are free of charge; a book fee of \$5 is optional.

For further information, call: Lt. Jack Higham at (516) 681-6268.

BOATING SAFETY COURSE FLOTILLA 1-4

Thirteen week course in boating safety and boat handling will be given by USCG Auxiliary, Flotilla 1-4, starting on January 23, 1979 at 7:30 p.m., in Lindenhurst Jr. High School, Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst, N.Y.

For further info, call 226-3732 or 226-5664.

The most popular United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, adult, twelve lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship Course, will start Tuesday, January 16, 1979, 7:30 p.m. at Bay Shore Junior High School. This is the most extensive course given and covers all aspects of Safe Boating. Minimum age 17 years.

For information or early registration call: 581-0194.

PATCHOGUE BAY POWER SQUADRON

Patchogue Bay Power Squadron announces Basic Boating Courses will be given on the following dates: Bellport High School on January 8;



69th New York National Boat Show

January 13-21, 1979

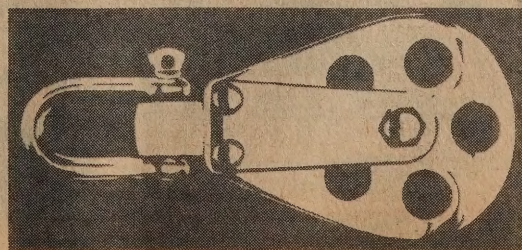
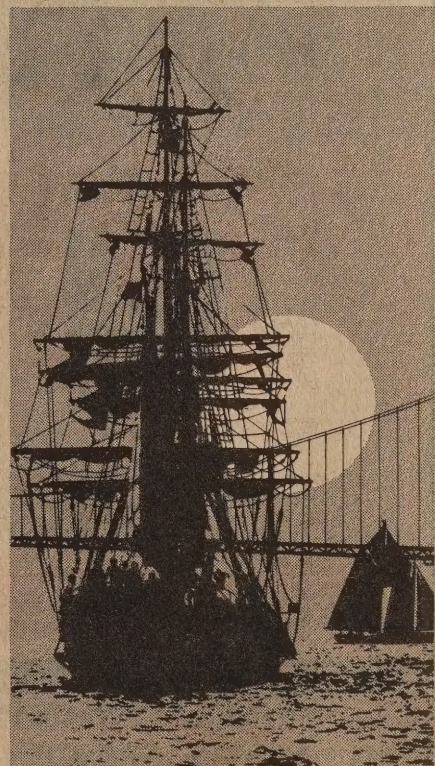
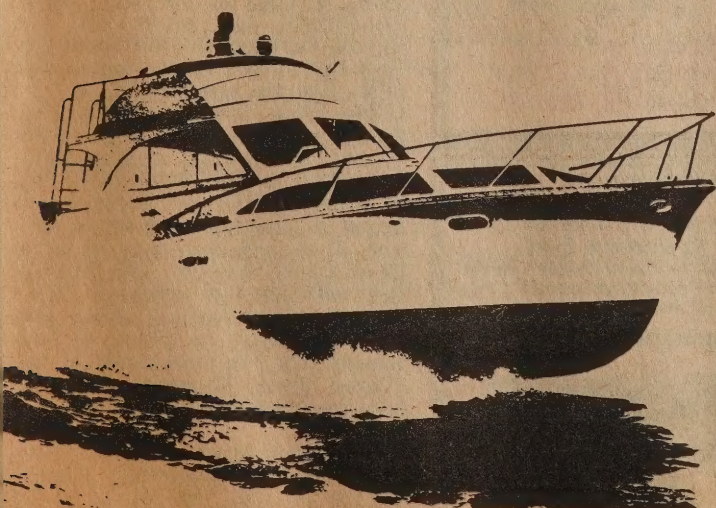
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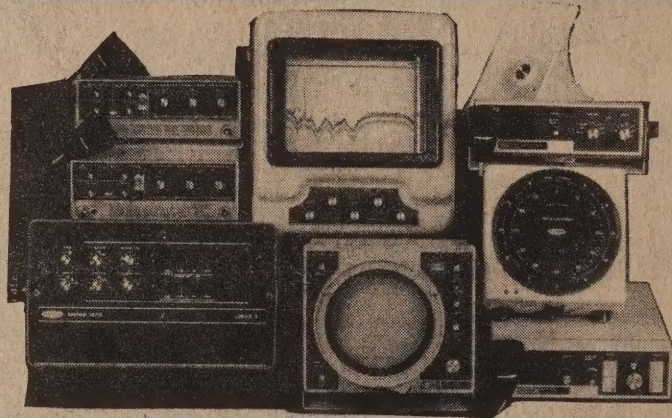
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registration and first class at 8PM, and Sachem High School—registration only on January 16; first class to be held one week later.

For more information, call: (516) 289-0802.

CONTINUOUS SAFE BOATING COURSE

A new concept on adult Boating Safety Education is being offered at Nassau County's Cow Meadow Park, Freeport, N.Y. on Monday evenings from 8PM to 10PM.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary-qualified instructors are teaching the boating skills and safety course on a continuing year-round basis. A student may enter the eight-week course at any lesson without waiting for a new course to begin.

Students will participate in knot tying, making dock lines fast to cleats and poles, actual course plotting with instruments, chart reading, anchoring, identification of buoys and lights, safe fueling practices and suggestions on boat handling in heavy weather and fog.

Many training aids such as VHF and CB radios, fire extinguishers, anchors, life jackets and compasses will be used and made available for inspection and discussion.

Official movies and slides will be shown at most class sessions, with instructors and proctors standing by to answer questions.

This comprehensive course is given free of charge by the USCG Auxiliary. Student text books, charts and basic instruments are available at modest cost. Sponsored by USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 13-6.

For additional information, contact: Henry Lenahan FSO/PE, Eves. 223-1930, or Cow Meadow Park 546-1616.

NEPTUNE SQUADRON FREE BOATING COURSE

Commander Edward C. Muller of Huntington's Neptune Power Squadron, a unit of the U.S. Power Squadrons, has announced the Spring Boating Course schedule. Registration for the free course is at 8PM, Monday, January 15, at John Glenn High School, Elwood Rd., East Northport; and at 8PM, Wednesday, January 31, at Walt Whitman High School, West Hills Rd., Huntington Station. Classes will begin on the same night as registration. There will be a nominal fee of \$9 for course material. Late registration will also be accepted before classes the following week. The same course will be offered at both schools. The Neptune Squadron has offered these 10-week courses to boating enthusiasts for over 35 years.

About as compact and comprehensive a study of elementary boating as one can find, the course is the result of years of teaching to hundreds of men and women. During the approximately two-hour class sessions, students will receive

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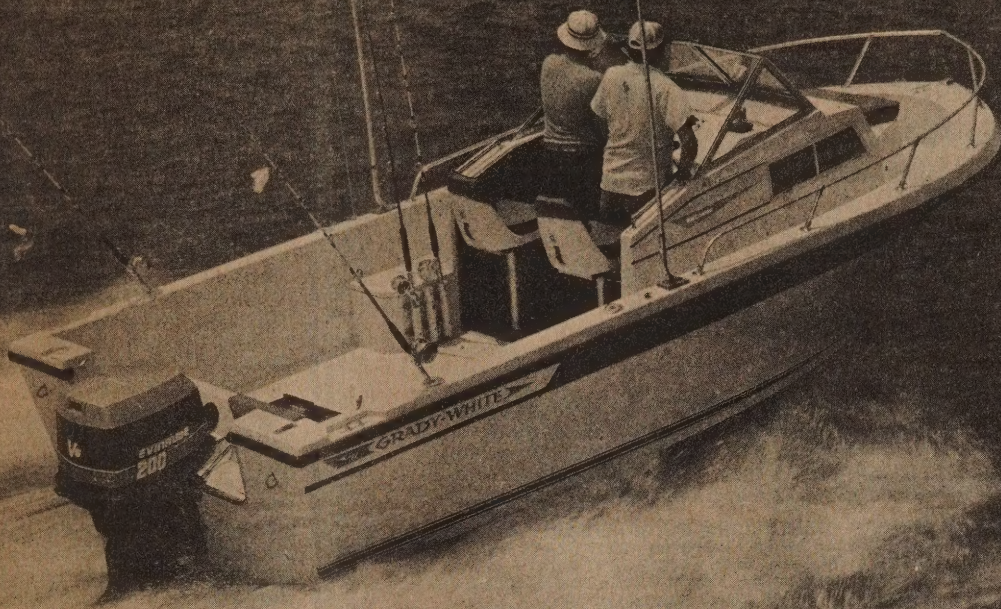
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With a Grady-White "walk-around", you can fight fish all around the boat and still enjoy the protection of a windshield, top, side curtains, and even a cabin when you need it. Now, some of those not-so-tough customers like your wife and kids can come along for a day on the

water. They get some shelter. You get insulated fish boxes, built-in rod holders, fiberglass liner, and a large, self-bailing cockpit.

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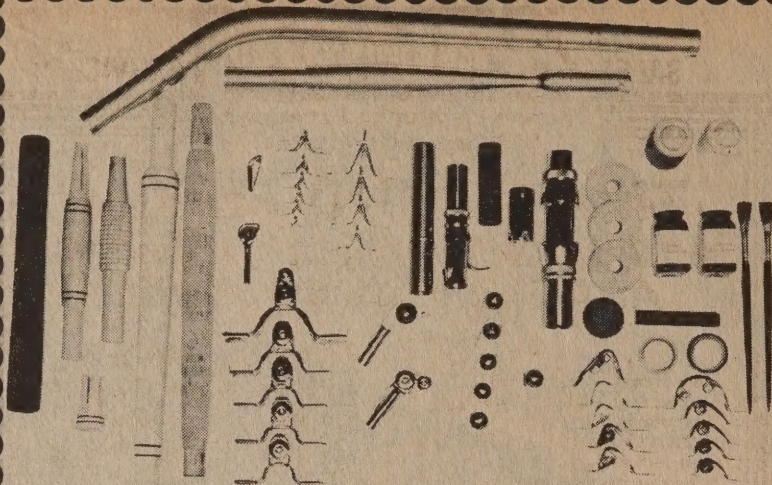
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instruction in all the major categories of safe boat handling including: course plotting; aids to navigation; chart reading; piloting; safety afloat; Government regulations; rules of the road, and many more. The last session of the course is reserved for a final examination and those who pass it receive a Certificate of Completion.

The students will have homework which should take from 30 minutes to an hour and the arithmetic needed for piloting navigation calculations is no more complicated than making change or totaling a shopping list.

Students between 12-15 years of age may also register for a special "Young Boaters" course to be held at each school on the same nights as the Basic Boating Course.

FLOTILLA 11-5 BOATING SKILLS & SAFETY

Training Officer, Harry Frankel, of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has announced that Flotilla 11-5 will conduct a free public education class dealing with the arts of boating skills and safety. This will be a 16 lesson course, and will be the longest course given by the Auxiliary. Eleven lessons will take the student through the art of boat handling to knowledge of radiotelephone communication. Five lessons (ten hours) will be devoted to the physical aspect of plotting courses on nautical charts. The course starts on Monday, February 5, 1979 and will be held every Monday evening at 8 PM in the clubhouse of the Excelsior Yacht Club, located at 1902 Shore Parkway, foot of 26th Avenue, in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. **Early registration is requested.**

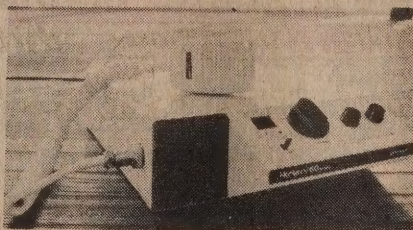
Need more info? Call Mr. Frankel, any business day, 9:30 to 4:30, 212-868-8853, or write to him at the Club.

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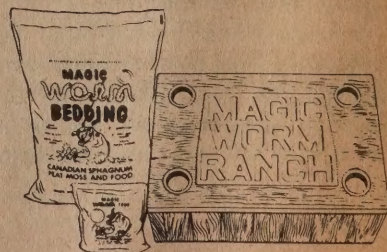
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For further info, write: Magic Worm Bedding Co., Inc., P.O. Box 38 Amherst Jct., Wisconsin 54407.

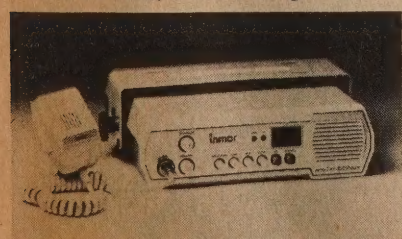


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Morrow Electronics, a leading American manufacturer of marine electronics, is proud to introduce their new RDR-12 Loran-C "Satellite" Remote. The RDR-12 is equipped with a 25 foot interface cable, or with an optional 50 foot cable. The maximum allowable distance between the Remote and the LCA-2950 Loran receiver is 100 feet. When connected to the LCA-2950, the remote is totally capable of controlling the Loran functions, including independent power on and off switch, plus a memory circuit that stores LOP readout data for later recall when needed.

Other RDR-12 features include continuous update of LOP's, mountable in virtually any position, and adjustable digit light intensity for optimum viewing under all lighting conditions. Also, more than one RDR-12 Remote can be attached to the Loran.

Suggested retail price for the RDR-12 is \$500 (with 25 foot cable). Contact **Morrow Electronics, Inc.**, P.O. Box 7078, Salem, Oregon 97303.



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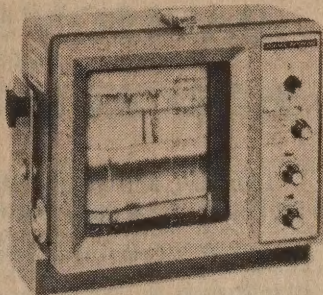
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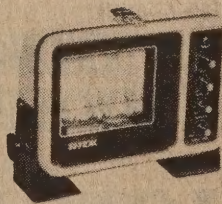
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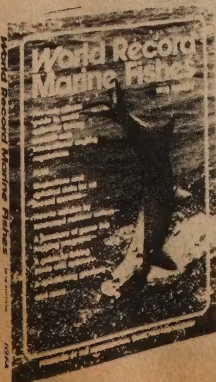
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NATIONAL SCENE

**NEWS & NOTES
ON THE WORLD
OF FISHING**
with Al Ristori

Big Changes Planned For Tuna Regulations

Just about the time that tuna fishermen were getting used to the regulations governing that valuable, but threatened fishery, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is ready to change the game plan completely. The reason is very simple: the present system just isn't working!

As noted many times in this column, the failure of Congress to include tuna in the 200-Mile Limit Law has made effective regulations of the fishery impossible. While American fishermen are handicapped by severe restrictions on their catch, any foreign nation can fish to their heart's content for tuna within our 200-Mile limit. The only restrictions on their catch are the general guidelines laid down by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), an organization so impotent that it makes the United Nations look effective by comparison. As with most other such international bodies, the U.S. invariably takes a terrible beating at every session.

Fortunately, only the Japanese are exploiting the tuna resources off our coasts at the present time. They are taking (by their own admission) eight- to nine thousand giant tuna in pre-spawning condition from the Gulf of Mexico each spring, completely negating the efforts of NMFS to preserve this spawning population by limiting U.S. commercial and sport fishermen to a total take of about three thousand giants per year. The

Japanese are also boating large quantities of school and medium bluefins in their winter longline fishery off the New England Coast. Yet, things could be much worse if other countries also got into this act—especially nations such as Mexico, who aren't even members of ICCAT. There's nothing to stop them, and as long as powerful West Coast commercial tuna operators feel it's in their best interests that the U.S. tuna be considered an international concern, there is little likelihood that Congress will correct this inequitable situation.

Despite the fact that the present situation discriminates against American fishermen in their own waters, the State Department continues to advocate the international route. Finally conceding that there was little likelihood of accomplishing anything in ICCAT, State's fisheries chief, Ambassador Negroponi promised at a Congressional hearing last year that he would use other quotas assigned to the Japanese as a bargaining tool with which to control the Gulf of Mexico fishery. Since the Japanese are allocated well over one million metric tons of fish within our 200-Mile limits, this would appear to be a reasonable method of handling the matter. After all, we start bargaining with all the aces in hand! Unfortunately, that sort of hand isn't normally good enough for the State Department, and NMFS is convinced that a new program is needed which will recognize the continued existence of the foreign fishery.

Since the Japanese are rapidly depleting the remaining stocks of giant tuna (estimated in the vicinity of 100,000)—most of which are very old fish—and our domestic seiners are catching too many school tuna to permit adequate replacement of the stock, the logical move is to change the present system. Between Japanese and American fishing pressure, and natural mortality, the remnants of the great year classes of the Fifties and early Sixties (before either U.S. or foreign commercial fishing) will soon be gone in any case. The priority now is to preserve as many school fish as possible and build a fishery for the future. Therefore, NMFS proposes to open up the giant tuna fishery north of Cape Cod to the domestic seiners. Limits for both hand gear and seine fishermen will be increased. In return, the seiners will be taken out of the school tuna business entirely.

From the standpoint of tuna conservation under the present circumstances, the program outlined to me by Bruce Freeman of NMFS last month, seems logical. If our Government doesn't have the fortitude to save the giant tuna resource, I'd rather see U.S. fishermen getting a fair share of it. With the Japanese paying record high prices for giant tuna, an additional quota to the seiners will make up for the income lost in the school tuna fishery. NMFS will try to set up regulations that will prevent gear conflict situations between seiners and hand-gear fishermen.

While sportsmen in New England may not be totally enthusiastic over the new approach, it will be very favorable to mid-Atlantic interests. Most importantly, the seining of school tuna off the Virginia and Maryland Coasts in June will be stopped. This will leave 1,000 tons of tuna in unharassed schools to work their way along the coast. After two disastrous years, school tuna fishing improved sharply in the New York/New Jersey area last year. The reason probably was the composition of the seiners' catch. Almost all their fish were very large schoolies, which left the one- and two-year-old fish free to move inshore and provide a sport fishery. Since the sport catch is very small when compared to what the seine catch was, NMFS is also proposing to increase the four fish per man, per day limit by one or two fish, and will probably also drop the fourteen pound minimum size.

Even in the case of giant tuna, mid-Atlantic anglers will get a break. Seining will be restricted to areas north of Cape Cod, and our hand-gear quota will be slightly increased—though we

(Continued on page 47.)

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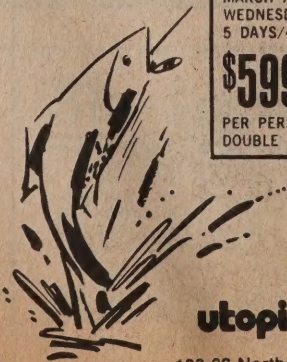
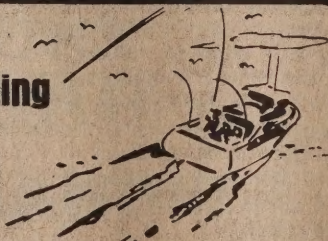
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FISH TALK

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Questions On Flounder

BILL CAMERON recently wrote in to compliment our flounder book. "My father (age 74), his friend (age 84), and myself (age 38) have fished for flats a total of about 175 years, and we thought we knew all there was to know on the subject—that is, until I read your little book. Granted, a great deal of their experience was during the thirties and forties when the flounders practically swam in the book." That's interesting, because we heard that many times before. Were flounders really more abundant thirty or forty years ago? Probably yes! Recent scientific reviews of coastal fish stocks suggest that stocks of winter flounder are in good shape. However, we must ask, by what criteria? The experiences of party boat captains and local fishermen contradict the scientific verdict. Thus, it may be that samples taken on the Continental Shelf show steady stock sizes for blackbacks. However, the methods used by scientists to estimate the size of various fish stocks, we believe, are biased. We suspect that schools of many species of fish appear inshore because competition on the Continental Shelf or on the near offshore grounds forces the fish to seek food in shallow bays and estuaries. Thus, fish stocks of a given species may be down by thirty or even forty percent without being reflected in offshore samples. We have suggested for many years that scientific samples and data gathering for the purpose of estimating fish stocks

should include interviews with party boat skippers, local boat livery owners, operators of bait and tackle stores, as well as local fishermen. Only with adequate input from inshore fishermen will accurate overall estimates of fish stocks be possible.

PERSONAL OPINION. It is my personal opinion that stocks of winter flounder are down considerably from previous decades. It should **not** be implied from that statement that I believe blackback flounder have been over-exploited commercially. It is impossible to say whether the decline is the result of natural cycles, over-exploitation, or some other factor that is as yet unknown to us. Truly, there are more fishermen—sport and commercial alike—who are harvesting winter flounder; but we also know that winter flounder are very prolific. Thus, it seems difficult to imagine that even a substantial increase in fishing pressure could be responsible for a major decline in population. Of course, we still know very little about what the Russians and other foreign nationals have harvested during the last decade. We have only begun to learn about what species constitute the "by-catch" since observers have been on board foreign vessels. In a recent National Scene column by Al Ristori, a substantial by-catch of porgies was reported. Again we warned, several years ago, that porgies, fluke, sea bass, weakfish, and winter flounder would appear

significantly in the by-catch.

ACCORDING TO MR. CAMERON, I "broke every rule that [he] was brought up on," such as using two anchors and baiting up with sand worms and bloodworms. Mr. Cameron reports that his catch has improved almost five times since following some of the suggestions in my book. There is little doubt that the use of more precise fishing techniques will improve a fisherman's catch, but we remain troubled that the current state of the winter flounder fishery is so poor that it takes sharpshooter approaches to score. Flounder fishing should be an easy fishing, a way to spend a Saturday, or a type of fishing that makes it easy to take children along because you know that they'll catch fish.

MR. CAMERON HAS ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS. "I personally like the first two hours of the falling tide. What tide do you recommend?" The first half of the ebb tide is a good choice, especially in places out in Long Island Sound. Actually, you should be able to take flounder whenever the tide is moving. But if I were to plan a trip, I'd want to start fishing midway through the flood. All my blitzes have occurred during the last three hours of the rising tide. I'm sure that other fishermen have had different experiences.

NUMBER TWO. "Have you ever found the Solunar Tables to be of any worth in flounder fishing?" I have never used the Solunar Tables for flounder fishing, but I imagine that they would be of considerable value, as the tables help hunters and other fishermen.

NUMBER THREE. "How do you feel about the practice of dyeing mussels?" Fresh mussels are always better than frozen, salted, or dyed versions. However, yellow-dyed salted mussels are a good substitute for fresh stuff when the fresh version isn't readily available. I would not suggest dyeing mussels red.

NUMBER FOUR. "Our early spring run of flats are often very soft and milky in texture, almost uneatable. How you do deal with cooking these fish?" I fillet 'em and eat 'em. The fillets of these fish may be soft and they'll probably curl up when you cook them, but they are still excellent eating!

NUMBER FIVE. "There was an old rule of thumb. Fish deep in the spring and shallow in the fall. Do you agree?" There are a lot of flounder fishermen who follow that practice with considerable success. However, I have found that wherever you catch flounders in one season, you'll catch them in the same place in another

(Continued on page 51.)

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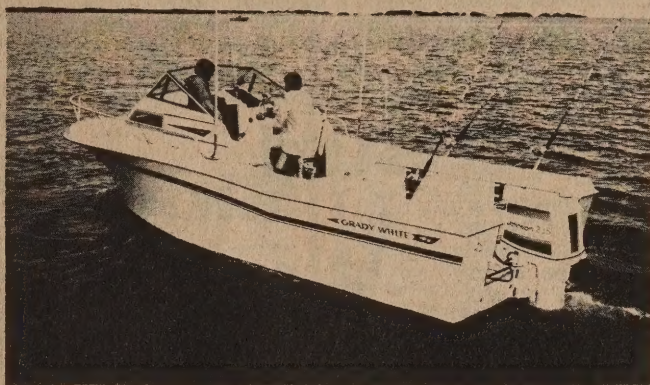


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How many times have you overheard derisive remarks when a buggy sporting several fishing rods and a lone fisherman passes by? "Look at that guy! How many rods can a guy fish with at one time?" It's too bad that these people do not realize that they are merely showing their ignorance by making such statements. For many newcomers to the sport of surfcasting one of the first questions raised about the sport is which rod should be bought. Before answering such a question, many things must be taken into consideration. Will the angler be fishing from jetties, open sandy beaches, relatively quiet waters of say, Long Island Sound; strong surging waters found in the inlets, or the wild, rock-strewn coast of Montauk? Which species will be the most sought after? Will the angler fish primarily bait or plugs? If plugs, what weight—three ounce bottle plugs or one ounce RedFins? The questions are endless and while on many occasions a single rod can be used, one can readily see that no one rod will serve well in all situations. What I will try to do in the following lines is point out in what instances a certain rod is used and the benefits gained by using a rod that fits the conditions encountered at the time.

Before we get into this matter too deeply, let me just say that aside from its length, a rod blank is judged by the action of the blank and by the power of the tip. The faster the action, the more the flexing of the blank is concentrated towards the tip. The power of a rod is an indication of its strength. I'm not going to delve into technicalities such as how to understand the coding system used by the different manufacturers. Visit one of your local tackle stores which custom makes rods. At this time of the year, I am sure you can get any specific questions answered to your satisfaction. The Surfcasters Catalog, obtained by writing The Surfcaster, 113 Maywood Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820, explains the codes of the Lamiglass and Fenwick blanks.

This information is useful when an angler is ordering a blank sight unseen, possibly to build the rod in the convenience of his home. Most newcomers to the sport will purchase the finished product. It is best to patronize a store where the sales person has a knowledge of surf fishing requirements. Explain the purpose for which your rod is intended and he will match one to your needs.

A few additional thoughts before we get into specifics. While I realize that some anglers require a rod that can be broken down, a one piece stick is by far the most popular among surfmen. The metal ferrules used in the cheaper rods detract from the action of the blank, for there is no flexibility at the joint. Although this seems to be the most sturdy part of the blank, this is the place in most danger of breaking. Corrosion of these parts is another matter which must be guarded against. The new Fiberglass ferrules found on the better made rods eliminates or reduces these problems to a minimum.

The metal reel seats found on most mass produced rods has a few drawbacks also. While facilitating the changing of reels, they are subject to corrosion which, in extreme cases, will require tools and plentiful amounts of penetrating oil to free. In cooler weather they are cold to the touch unless wrapped with friction tape and the better made chrome plated reel seats add unnecessary weight which takes its toll after a long night of casting.

For the fisherman who intends to fish primarily with bait, there are not too many variations to consider.

First of all, as in all cases, the type waterfront to be fished is of prime consideration. The weight of the sinker will have to be sufficient to hold your bait in the desired place. In a heavy surf, this could mean six ounces of lead or more. Add to this a live eel or a good sized chunk of cut bait and you can readily see that a rod with a lot of

backbone is required. The eleven and thirteen foot spinning rods with a moderate or slow action is probably the most common stick employed by bottom fishermen in a heavy surf. The more serious bait fishing anglers are returning to slightly shorter, but more rigid rods to be used with conventional reels. If you are fishing calmer waters, or are using lighter baits such as marine worms, then nine or ten foot rods in the middle power class will be sufficient and also provide a more thrilling battle.

If you happen to be a jetty jockey, who will spend a great deal of time slinging whole bunker from the rocks, then a seven or eight foot conventional stick with a lot of backbone is advised. Most jetty fishermen prefer short, stiff rods. Long casts are not necessary, but the ability to apply extra pressure on a fish diving for the rocks is often needed. The longer sticks tend to be unwieldy when a fish is to be gaffed among the slippery rocks. One place, which is similar to jetty fishing where this does not hold true is the Lighthouse area at Montauk. The reason is that far reaching casts are often necessary, so the inconvenience is put up with.

When one enters the field of casting artificial lures, the need for the correct rod is more pronounced. One look at the shelves in a tackle store will tell you that no one rod is able to cast and work correctly the variety and weight differences of the lures to be found.

In an emergency, any rod can be pressed into service just as long as the lure reaches the area where the fish lie; but if the rod is too stiff for lightweight lures, the angler will have little feel for the action of the plug. Generally, the larger sticks are matched with corresponding sized reels spooled with heavy line which will reduce considerably the distance of your cast. Because there is little tension on the heavy line when using undersized lures, the coils of line will not lie smoothly on your spool, thereby increasing the chances of a backlash. In the reverse situation, a heavy plug can often be lobbed with a light rod into productive waters. The handicap now is that many strikes will be missed because the rod does not have the power to set the larger hooks. The tendency to lean into the cast, especially if the fish are some distance off the beach, can cause a failure in your equipment which usually produces a loud snap as the line parts under the strain.

The list of plugging rods can encompass ultra-light, one-handed freshwater sticks to be used in the back bays with lures under one ounce, to giant fourteen foot poles employed when casting five ounce squids over the farthest breakers. Again, one has to decide which type of fishing is to be most often encountered.

If most of your fishing is to be done in quiet waters with lures similar to the five inch Rebels, a seven to nine foot medium action blank is desired. Lighter sticks can be used when the weather is calm, but on those nights when the wind is in your face, slightly heavier lures are necessary. These rods will be capable of casting small one-and five-eighths ounce darters, or the one-and-a-quarter ounce windcheaters.

When fishing in the spring or summer in areas such as the North Bar with five to seven inch RedFins, a nine or ten foot light action blank will permit proper control of the plug and at the same time not needlessly tire the angler who must spend considerable time in the water for this slow-paced action.

In the fall when the heavier lures in the two to four ounce range come into play, the eleven to thirteen foot medium power rods are most often seen. The fish tend to be larger and crowding can be a problem, so that control of the fish frequently is a necessity.

Little has been mentioned about the size of the fish to be encountered until now; but then, no one really knows what will engulf that tiny bit of plastic which was thrown into the darkness. During the slow fishing periods of the season, the crowds are usually sparse; and if a good sized fish takes your offering when you are fishing light tackle, you will be able to move down the beach after your fish without hindrance from other anglers.

So far nothing has been written here about the various lures, except to categorize them roughly by weight. There are some lures which must be worked in a specific manner to be effective and the type rod one uses has much to do

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with how effective that lure will be. The simplest way to explain this is to picture an angler trying to work a heavy popping plug across the surface with a light, extra fast-tipped rod. The speed of the retrieve will have to be greatly increased while long sweeps of the rod tip will have to compensate for its lack of stiffness. In a similar vein, a rod used to work a bucktail should also have a certain amount of backbone in the tip to properly cause the lure to flutter and dip the way it should.

The correct method of working a pencil popper is also facilitated by employing a rod suited for that particular purpose. A whippy rod that will transmit the action of your arm and shoulder to cause the plug to slowly dance across the water with a side-to-side motion is preferred. It is true that this action can be achieved with a stiff rod, but it is a very tiring procedure.

Without getting too technical, I tried to point out that there is no one rod that can be used for all aspects of surfcasting. The deeper you get into the sport, the more specialized your needs will become. If I must pick a rod for a beginner, I would have to say a medium action, medium power eleven-and-a-half foot rod for fishing on the South Shore and Montauk. For surf fishing on the North Shore, an eleven-and-a-half foot blank with lighter power and tip will work well. Before you purchase any rod, visit your local tackle store which makes rods; tell the proprietor your needs. He should be able to show you the rod suitable for your purpose so that you can be the final judge.

Next week, The Long Island Fisherman will feature a rundown on the various reels we surfmen employ in the pursuit of our sport.



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Okay, so maybe that title seems a little far-fetched just now, and maybe at this minute the snow is flying and tomorrow's northwest winds will be colder than you-know-what, but believe it or not, in eight weeks you'll be able to go out flounder fishing. The immediate question is then: how are you going to spend the next eight weeks until those early spring flounders get stirring? Are you going to waste those eight weeks by perhaps becoming a charter member of that great captive audience who become ecstatic over all that inane TV programming? Perish the thought! In fact, as the dedicated fisherman I'm sure you are, I'll give you two weeks to get that foolishness out of your system before you begin champing at the bit. Maybe it won't even take that long. So, then, what are you going to do? Read? That's one good way. Devote your free time re-reading all those interesting fishing articles you've been saving for just such an occasion; but alas, just how much reading can you do? If

anything, reliving past experiences at this time is like pouring salt on an open wound. You're a man of action, so let's do something active—like cleaning out your messy tackle box. And don't think it won't take some cleaning out. Have you looked it over lately? I mean, really looked it over?

I know exactly what it looks like, because at this instant I've got mine opened before me. And when I look at it, I come to one conclusion. And that is that there are fat fishermen, thin fishermen, old fishermen, and young fishermen, and perhaps never the twain shall meet, but one thing we all have in common is a guaranteed, gosh-awful mess in our tackle boxes.

Let me pause a minute and do a little pawing through and see what goodies I come up with. There's some rust-spotted, kinked, coiled-beyond-hope fluke leaders and severely rusted flounder hooks. And will wonders never cease! Here's that spool of thirty pound mono I accused Artie Leidecker of not returning. (Some day, maybe, I'll have to apologize for those scurvy things I said.) And here, in this corner, what's this tucked under those loose fish scales? Split-shot left over from last summer's snapper fishing. Or was it the summer before? And here's that over-sized three-way swivel I could have used last August

while drifting for fluke through that mile-a-minute current at Shinnecock Inlet. Could have doubled my catch. Maybe.

Let's see now. What else is in this jumbled pile of what-is-it? Ah! Here's that sprung "Quick-Rig" I decked that nice cod with two winters ago. Luck was with me that day. And wonder of wonders, how did those mackerel scales get inside and under the loose-hook trays? And here are those barrel swivels and sinker snaps I bought last year and never used. Maybe if I squirt a little WD-40, that green gook will loosen its grip and I'll be able to use them this year. And here are several four-inch, needle-thin, blackened, hard coils of something. Of course: mummified night crawlers from last spring's flounder fishing. How'd they get in there? Now I know where that god-awful stench came from. And will you look at all those rusted, bent, and broken hooks!

Enough already! You get the idea.

Just as soon as I finish this article, I'm going to dump all that stuff on the kitchen table and give much of it the deep-six. Those rust-flecked and kinked fluke leaders will have to go; so, too, will those rusted and broken hooks. But not that sprung "Quick-Rig." I'm too sentimental for that. That goes in the box with the outside cod skulls and all those baby lobsters, plus assorted foreign objects found in cod stomachs and squirreled away over the years. Which only goes to prove what I've always maintained: that all dedicated winter codfishermen are a little touched in the upper story.

And then I'm going to draw up a list of replacements I need. There will have to be some new fluke leaders made up, a fresh supply of flounder hooks snelled to twenty pound leader material for the coming season; and maybe lay in a few swivels and such in case those ghooked-up ones prove beyond salvage. Already I've got enough work lined up to pass away a few more of those long, boring evenings.

When the list is completed, I'm going to get some hot soapy water and get rid of all the crud that has accumulated on the inside and outside of that tackle box. It looks to me as if some of that stuff is going to take a good soaking first; but what the heck, I've got plenty of time.

When these minor clean-up chores are finished, I'm going to give my reels more than a cursory glance. I'll use a little elbow grease and rid them of those mackerel and snapper scales. Then I'll go over the screws and the drag tensions.

Maybe if I'm lucky, the reels will only need a little tightening here and there. If there is evidence of binding or foreign sounds, I might be able to take care of it myself—and I might not. If not, tomorrow a visit to the repair shop is in order. By doing this now, I don't run the risk of not getting back my ailing reel, or reels, in time for early spring fishing.

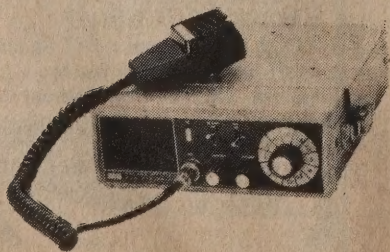
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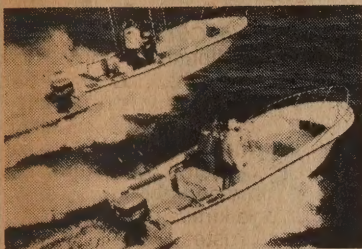
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And while we're on the subject of reels: how is the mono line? If it is frayed, don't forget to cut back as much as necessary. If the line has lost its color, or limpness, my advice is to replace. Sunlight is mono's enemy and you may have given it all it can safely take before it lets go under the stress of an outside fish. Maybe all you'll have to do is reverse it on the spool. But if you have any doubts at all, get rid of it. Good mono is cheap enough.

That ought to be enough for now, but just as soon as possible, I'll go over my rods. No matter how careful the fisherman, windings do become frayed and cut; perhaps the reel seat, or ferrule, or even the tiptop has loosened. Now's the time to rewind the wrappings, or have it done, and reseal those loose metal parts with ferrule cement. Perhaps only the heat of a match will do the trick.

While you're at it, you might give the guides and tiptop a good checking over. If they are grooved, it is to your advantage to install new ones now. Grooving comes from the hard mono line passing over the softer metal. And mono is hard stuff, although to look at it you wouldn't think so. Best to replace the tiptop with one made of carboly. These will cost a few pennies more, but your line-grooving troubles are over. Just be careful you don't drop the rod on a hard surface. Carboly will break if it lands just right.

And last, but not least: in what shape is your foul-weather gear? If yours is like mine, it will be smeared with dried skimmer and bunker chum. Cool, soapy water will remove this goop easily enough. Any rips or tears? I don't know what to tell you here. Perhaps you can make repairs, but my advice is to think about purchasing a new outfit soon. If you can afford it, get yourself the best. It will more than pay for itself by lasting longer and will indeed keep you warmer by shielding from strong winds and heavy rain or snow. Cheap imports won't do this on those tough days.

Anyway, all this will keep you busy for a few nights and rescue you from those many incredulous, asinine TV shows that go under the guise of entertainment. Better you should entertain yourself constructively, and come next spring, you'll be all set and happy that you took the time to do so.

Oh, yes. Your tackle box. Put all your stuff back neatly, everything in its proper place, and I'll guarantee you that once you begin fishing again, it will stay that way for at least five minutes. Mine always does.



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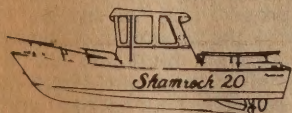
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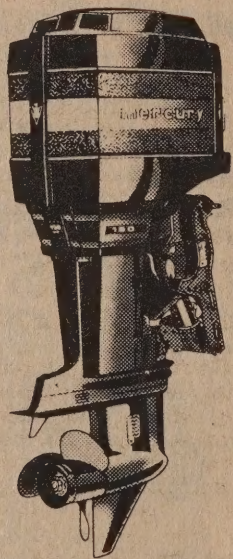
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TRAVEL SPECIAL

Cashes Ledge SAFARI

by Ivan J. Krupit

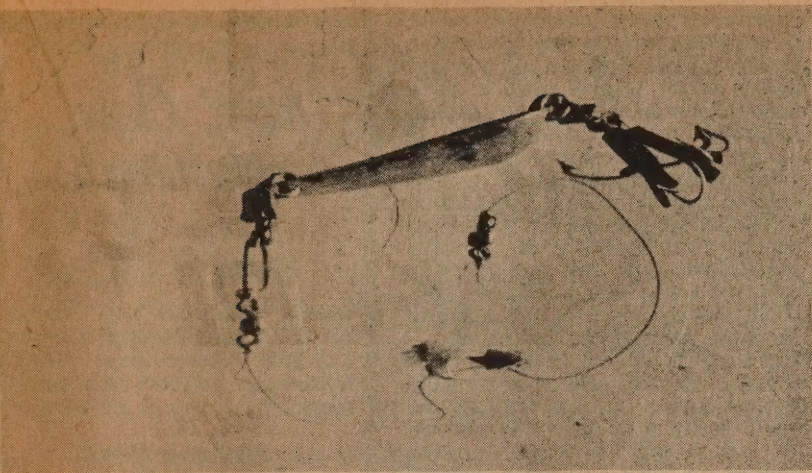
There are not many trips that I know of where the day's catch is measured by how many sacks of fish are caught by each fisherman—but, now I believe, the Cashes Ledge Safari is one of them. On my last venture to the seaport of Gloucester, Mass., in mid-July, I learned more about the various offshore trips made by the Yankee Fleet. The one that intrigued me the most was their trip to Cashes Ledge. Could it be true? Five to eight thousand pounds of fish caught on most trips? The value of each angler's catch would more than cover the day's expenses?? This was too good to be true and I was determined to see for myself, and therefore proposed such a venture to my fellow anglers. Both Len Wald and Elmer Frank decided to join me and try our luck. The tab is \$41, but if you pay in full, you can reserve your berths (pipe berths, troopship style) and spot on the rail—upon receipt of payment. Reservations have to be made long in advance since this is one of their more popular trips and they take a maximum of fifty anglers. This we did; and soon clinched our choice spots port side at the bow, as well as our berths. We were all set; all we had to do was wait patiently for August 17.

Now, Cashes Ledge is located about eighty miles offshore, due east of Gloucester and consists of a series of subterranean mountain peaks shoaling to as little as twenty-five feet, and is surrounded by deep water, some in excess of six hundred feet (much like the Race located off the North Shore of Long Island). The Ledge is populated by both native and migratory species which include cod, pollack, cusk, haddock, and an occasional halibut. It has been reported that some big fish have been caught off this Ledge, some going upwards of one hundred pounds. The schools of cod and pollack pass over the Ledge in their migration patterns and feed on the bait fish that reside there. Best action occurs during the summer months.

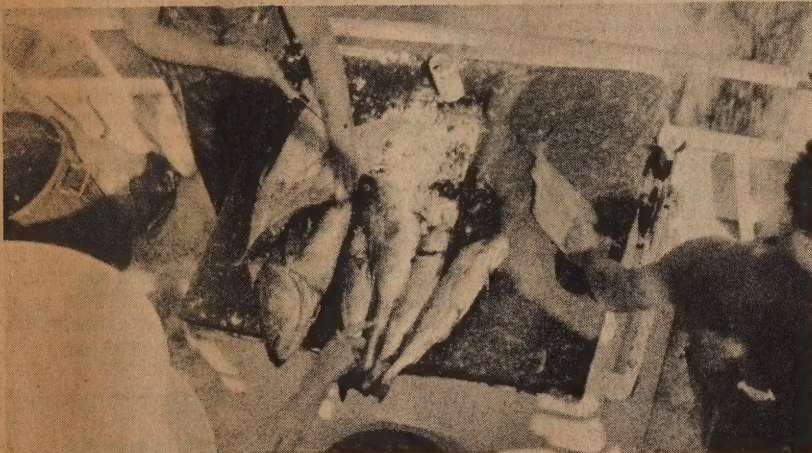
We left Co-op City at 3:45 that Thursday afternoon and arrived at Gloucester seaport by 8PM (an easy drive on all major highways), had a

delicious fish dinner on the dock (at reasonable rates) and loaded our gear aboard the good ship "Yankee Capts." The ship is ninety feet long with a wide beam, can exceed speeds of twenty knots, and has all the latest electronic fish-finding equipment to help guide us to prime areas on the Ledge. The mates on board know all the tricks and the ship's two captains have years of experience in fishing the area. It also has a full galley with all kinds of good food to help make the journey that much more enjoyable. The mates advised that this is no "money trip" with large pools, like many of the offshore trips we heard about. The pool is simply \$1 per man, if you choose to enter, making it a fun day all around. Before we shoved off at 10PM, the Captain gathered us together and gave us a short lecture on what to expect. He explained the most effective manner to work the Norwegian jigs that we would be using. Simply cast out as far as you can, away from the boat, and after it reaches bottom, reel up—one or two turns will do fine—to keep the jig just off the bottom where the fish are. Then a short yank upwards, and another a bit longer, to simulate darting bait fish. The way we work our jigs will determine how long we will hold the school of cod, pollack and whatever else is down there. The trick is to work them into a feeding frenzy. Strong treble hooks are attached to the business end of the jig, the reason being what fish are not caught right and proper, may be snagged since some of the schools are very thick. The Captain cautioned us to be extremely careful with these jigs so that we make sure to hook only the fish and not our neighbor or even ourselves. No beer or hard liquor is permitted to be brought aboard—although beer is sold at the galley and kept in control. After the Captain's talk, we bedded down below in our assigned berths for the evening.

By 3AM Friday, the strong aroma of frying bacon began to flow through the cabins, and one by one, the fishermen began to wander onto the deck for breakfast. The full moon shone brightly on the water and I began to wonder what effect, if any,



Norwegian jig and teaser rig used at Cashes Ledge.



Mates fillet out part of a day's catch.

this would have on the fishing. We were soon to find out. A few hours later, we gathered at our spots along the rail waiting for the anchor to be set and the signal to begin fishing. It was still dark as we began to let our lines down—but not for long. Soon darkness gave way to magnificent sunrise. Anglers were already into fish, while others were already calling for the gaff as a mixture of cod and pollack were being brought on deck. The day's action had begun. You had to cast out as far as you could, away from the boat, and let the jig settle to the bottom, ever ready for a strike as the lure approaches bottom ... 112 feet below. In addition to the jig, we set above it a small bucktail-type rig called a "zapper snapper," which proved to be red hot on pollack. They came in various color combinations: yellow-and-black, white-and-yellow, and red-and-white. It didn't seem to make any difference what color was used; all took fish. In fact, before long we were taking double header pollack, averaging about eight pounds with occasional lunkers thrown in. There was also the greedy angler who put on two or three of the "zapper snapper" lures; but that was only looking for trouble since multiple lunker pollack in the twenty pound class swimming in different directions could easily pop

your line. A school of mackerel seemed to be the bait fish they were feeding on and many of them were in the two to three pound range. Therefore, you had to go through the school of mackerel to get to the pollack. If you hooked up with a few mackerel, you just let your jig continue on down into deeper water. The mackerel would fall off, hopefully (unless, of course, you desired mackerel), and as you proceeded downward, you usually hooked up with some fighting pollack. After awhile, you seemed to be able to feel how many fish you had on by the way the rod was bending. When you thought the rig was heavy enough, you fought the fish to the surface; gaffed them when necessary, and started on down once again. The action never appeared to cease. Soon it became an endurance contest: the harder you fished, the faster you would fill your sack. As soon as one sack was filled, you tied and tagged it with proper identification, and placed it into huge ice chests located on deck. Then you proceeded to fill the second sack, and so on... It was like fishing in a huge aquarium. The ice chests were soon packed solid with fish and you had to wet down your remaining sacks from time to time, to protect the fish from the hot sun. As the noon hour

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approached, we found ourselves with some unwelcome visitors—SHARKS. One such shark bit into a cod that was being fought to the surface by a nearby fisherman, and in the process, was himself hooked. The shark put up quite a battle before he was gaffed. Once on deck, the mates tried to kill it and put it out of the way. It was a blue shark that weighed about one hundred pounds. With sharks in the area, the captain moved to other grounds; this time the water was much deeper—about 350 feet. Here we had hoped to get those monster cod and pollack ... and here the full moon tide did its worst. The tide was exceptionally strong, pulling our jigs towards the stern. Many of us never felt that we hit bottom and the strong currents tangled our lines like never before. However, the fishermen who were able to reach bottom were rewarded with some nice fish: cod and pollack in the thirty pound class; likewise for a lone halibut that weighed in at thirty-five pounds. The captain tried various other grounds that he knew of, but as long as we stayed in deep water, most of us had trouble in holding bottom—no matter how heavy a jig was used. It was then back to shallower waters and basically smaller fish. By 1:30 p.m., the captain called it a day—and what a day it was. Most anglers had anywhere from two to five sacks of fish. One word of caution: do not fill your sacks to the top if you wish to avoid problems upon lifting them into the ice chests and later on to the cutting table. It was the halibut that took the pool, going over thirty-five pounds. No giants were caught that day, but who cared. Everyone was quite satisfied with their catch. After the mates filleted the fish, we learned that we each had over one hundred pounds of filleted cod, pollack, cusk, haddock, and—oh yes, even some mackerel. The meat of these fish was very light in color, almost white, and extremely delicious. We placed our fish back into the ice chests and went below for a little shuteye to regain our strength for the long trip home. One final word about the proper tackle to bring along. I would suggest a stout rod with a Penn Senator 4/0 reel loaded with a minimum of fifty pound test mono. For even better control, try switching the reel handle to one that is oversized and you will quickly tell the difference in comfort and improved leverage on fighting a large fish.

As we approached the harbor of Gloucester, three whales could be seen frolicking on the surface. The captain sighted a number of giant tuna which he tried to harpoon, with no success. They sounded as the boat approached them. Even bluefish were close to shore, which is unusual for this species to venture this far north. I spotted a huge blue shark approaching the boat, as if to look us over, and then it went down. The area abounds with a variety of fish. The day ended with a spectacular sunset; a day that we will long remember.

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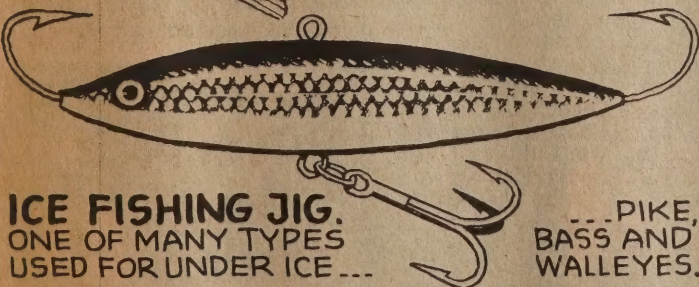
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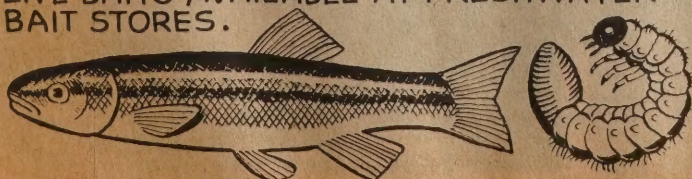
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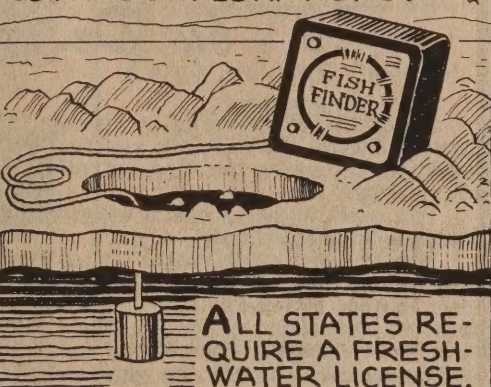
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Rod Holders for Small Boats

Part Two—Pipe Sections & Clamps

by Dr. William A. Muller

In Part One of this series we discussed the planning stages of design and materials selection, as well as the first steps of preparing the wood and cutting the PVC pipe into sections.

This week we take a look at securing the galvanized clamps to the pipe sections.

Like any wintertime fishing-related project, we can get as carried away as we care to. The finished product can be durable and serviceable at minimum cost, or it can be a showcase production right out of Tiffany's. We opted for cheap and serviceable. Some fishermen might argue that the clamps used to hold the pipe sections should be stainless steel and they would have a good argument. Nonetheless, we decided to minimize rusting by using galvanized metal and then spraying carefully with metal anti-rust priming paint before spraying with enamel. After more than a year of service, we have had no difficulty with rust or corrosion. Last fall, when we pulled the boat out for the winter, we sanded the edges of the clamps, added a coat of primer, and re-sprayed with enamel before storage. It was a minor operation; we used the paint that was leftover from the construction stage, and the entire maintenance job took less than one hour, including the drying time between prime and enamel.

All in all, I have been very satisfied with the finished product. I did make a few changes once the rack was on the boat; but more about that in the last part of the series.

Place each clamp in a vise before drilling a one-eighth inch hole, as shown in the picture. It is possible to bend the clamp if the hole is drilled while the clamp rests on a hard surface. Each hole should be drilled exactly in the center of each clamp. Therefore, make two measurements before drilling. Measure one-half the distance of the length of the clamp and one-half the width. Where the two points intersect, make a mark and drill at that point.

When all the holes have been drilled in the center of the clamps, the pipe sections and clamps should be laid out on the wood base. Spread out the sections and decide on a convenient spacing. You may decide that each section should be equi-distant from each and every other section; but on the other hand, you may anticipate unequal spacing needs dictated by your fishing habits. For example, if you routinely carry a heavy outfit or two (trolling tackle), you might want several with large spacing to accommodate the large reels.

Mark the positions of the holes on the sides of clamps on the wood where you will attach the clamps to the base. Mark the PVC pipe sections where the clamps will be riveted to the pipe.

Drill one-eighth inch holes in the pipe at the points where you marked the position where the clamps will be riveted to the pipe. Remove plastic burrs from the hole with a rat-tail file. It may be necessary to run the file in and out of the holes both in the pipes and clamps in order to accommodate the rivet. However, you want the rivet to

fit tightly, so do not make the holes too big.

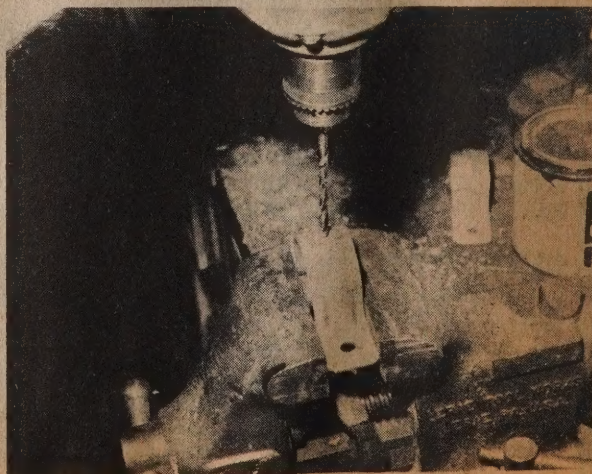
Insert the copper rivet in the hole drilled in the plastic pipe with a long pair of tweezers. Insert the rivet so that the flat head end is on the inside surface of the pipe. Insert a metal pipe that is slightly smaller in diameter than the PVC pipe into the plastic pipe which will serve as a hard backing for the rivet when flanging the outside aperture of the rivet. Place the assembly in a vise.

Place the clamp over the pipe so that the rivet protrudes from the central hole. Use an awl or large nail to flange the outside aperture of the copper rivet over the outside surface of the clamp. Tap the nail or awl with a hammer several times. When the rivet begins to flange, remove the nail or awl and flatten down the rivet with a hammer. Make sure that the clamp does not move in its position on the pipe. If it does, place the metal pipe back into the plastic pipe and tap the rivet several additional times. Repeat the process for all clamps and pipe sections.

Prepare about one-eighth of a teaspoon of long curing epoxy glue, using equal parts of resin and hardener. Five minute epoxy often becomes either brittle or soft after exposure to the elements and is, therefore, less desirable. Cover each flanged rivet with a generous dab of glue.

When the glue has cured (allow at least twenty-four hours), the pipe sections with the clamps attached are ready for spraying with metal primer paint. Make sure that you sand the clamps very lightly to make the metal slightly rough. Make every effort to cover all parts of the clamp; spraying from the sides of the pipe will allow the primer to penetrate under the clamp where it is attached to the pipe. Set aside and allow to dry for twenty-four hours.

Next week: Attaching the pipe sections to the wood base



Drill a 1/8" hole in the center of the clamp.



Insert a metal pipe into the PVC pipe to serve as a hard backing when securing the rivet.



Use a long tweezers or forceps to introduce the rivet.



Spray the tube and clamps carefully with metal primer carefully to avoid rust and corrosion.

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HOW-TO SPECIAL FEATURE

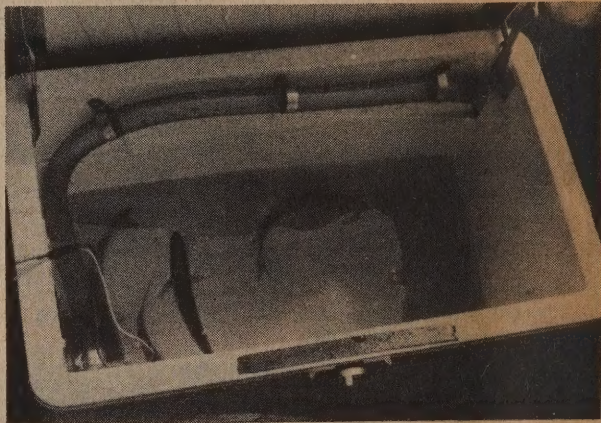
Portable Live Bait Well

In this Corner:
Don Avondolio

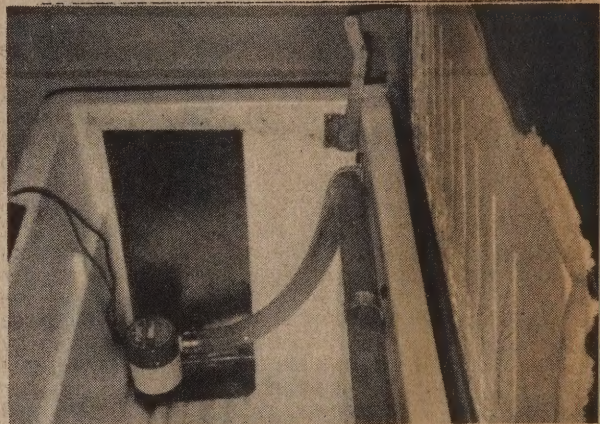
If you haven't tried the live bait method of fishing, you're missing one of the most interesting and productive means of catching fish—especially the large trophy size. Live bait, such as bunker, snappers, killies, and other sometimes overlooked species can be fished live to catch the most sought after predators like striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, and fluke. The predators mentioned will react ravenously to the appearance of smaller, wounded live bait for several reasons. First and foremost, the bait is naturally realistic and a choice food if wounded and easy to prey upon. Secondly, theories have been quoted by several outdoor writers concerning a significant aroma given off by wounded bait which is recognized by their attackers. Whether this theory is always true or not remains to be proven, but the typical erratic swimming motion of wounded bait fish definitely is a strong attractor for big hungry fish. This erratic swimming motion creates low frequency sound waves that are heard by the predators lateral line sensors, which are tuned to detect unusual or fractal swimming movements.

Now that we have the advantages of fishing live bait, I shall go on to show the construction of a portable live bait well system to maintain them. The bait should be kept live in a watertight container well, housing sea water. The water must be circulated and aerated for maximum effectiveness. By purchasing a sale priced picnic cooler, or by using an old discarded one, we have an economical portable watertight housing, provided that we have satisfied our size requirements. Depending on how many bait fish and how large they are, we can determine size requirements. My particular size (inside well dimensions) is twenty inches long by eleven inches wide by fourteen inches high, and can house seven to ten large snappers, or five to six bunkers at one time. Remember that the cooler must be constructed of a corrosion-proof material, such as plastic or aluminum for long usage with saltwater. Also used with the bait housing is a bilge type, submersible water pump and associated tubing, bracketry, and mounting hardware. The assembled live bait well sketched can be connected to your 12 v.d.c. power system, per the electrical schematic shown, and disconnected on and off at your liking. A power switch can be added at the (+) side of the circuit if you prefer, but I feel it unnecessary for this system. A purchased two-contact electrical connector and plug serves as your disconnect system for boat power cooler pump operation. This particular electrical connector and plug mate can be obtained at your local marine supply house. Aluminum bracket material and hardware (self-threading sheet metal type screws) are obtainable from your hardware store or building supply dealer. Clear plastic tubing is also easily obtainable from a boat or marine supply house.

To start construction and assembly of your live bait well, the aluminum sheet metal must be bent 90° and drilled to support your pump. It is also drilled to secure to inside wall of cooler. This aluminum (.06 thick) is bent 90° in a wood or metal vise, using a tapping motion with a mallet or hammer. This sheet metal is cut to size with metal cutting blade in a sabre saw. The pump mounting holes are then drilled into the bracket per manufacturer instructions supplied with the pump. After mounting the pump to the bracket, the assembly is then placed inside the cooler and attached to the wall with sheet metal self-tapping screws. A clear PVC hose is then attached to the pump output connector with a hose clamp. This entire pump/bracket assembly should be located as close to the cooler bottom as possible for optimum circulation. Seal the base of the screw heads used for inside mounting clamps and bracket against the cooler wall with a G.E.-type silicone glue and sealer for best protection against water



Portable live bait well and several live snappers.

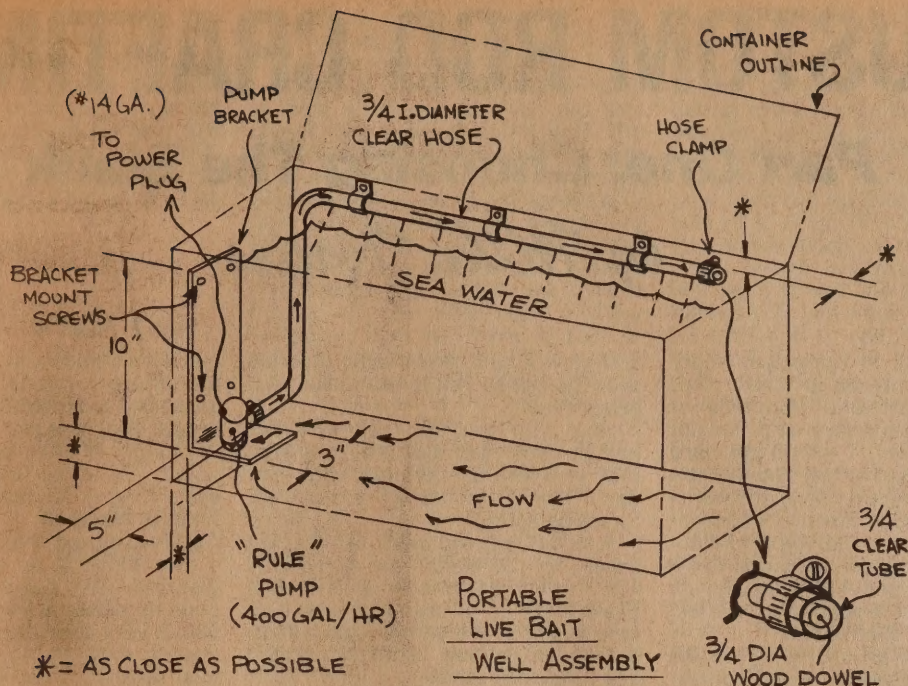


Close-up view of pump and mounting bracket.

LIST OF PARTS REQ'D

- (1) PORTABLE PICNIC COOLER
(PREFER PLASTIC, ALUMINUM MATERIAL)
- (1) 4' LONG 3/4 I.D. HOSE (CLEAR PVC)
- (2) HOSE CLAMPS 3/4 I.D. (STAINLESS OR PLASTIC)
- (3) HOSE MOUNTING CLAMPS (STAINLESS OR PLASTIC)
- (1) "RULE" BILGE PUMP (OR EQUAL)
- (1) ROLL 50' LONG #14 GAUGE WIRE
(WATERPROOF COVERED)
- (1) ROLL VINYL WATERPROOF TAPE
- (1) .060 THICK ALUMINUM SHEET 3" WD X 20" LG
- (1) 3/4 DIA WOOD DOWEL X 1" LG
- 1 DOZEN SHEETMETAL SELF-THREADING SCRS
- (1) TUBE SILICONE (G.E.) GLUE/SEALANT
- (1) FUSE HOLDER & FUSE 2 AMP/12 VDC
- (1) CONNECTOR/PLUG - 2 CONTACT 2 AMP/12 VDC
(BOAT TRAILER TYPE ACCEPTABLE)

TOOLS: - VISE, HAMMER, SABRE SAW
OR HACK SAW, 1/8 DRILL, SCREWDRIVER



* = AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE

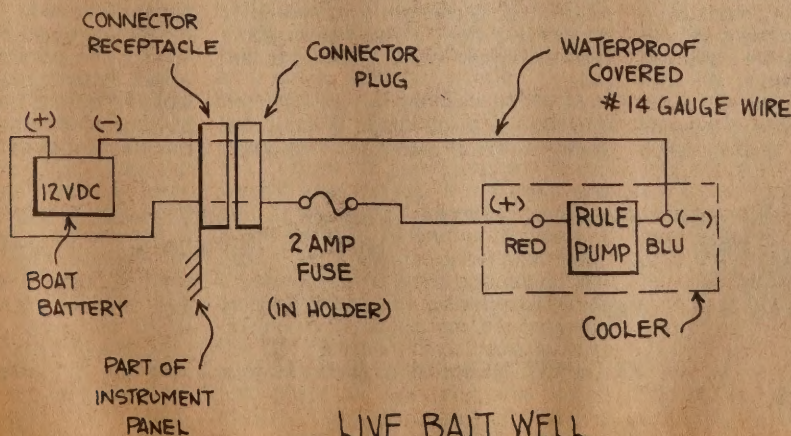
seepage into the cooler wall. Several hose clamps can be used to secure the top horizontal mounted clear hose to the cooler rear wall as required for proper support. At the opposite end of the hose (farthest from pump), a short wooden dowel is inserted to seal off the tube opening. Another hose clamp is utilized at this position to prevent leakage of water at this end. After the hose is secured to the cooler wall, one-eighth inch diameter holes are drilled or pierced through one wall thickness of the tubing to accomplish spray aeration. These holes are located at three to four inch pitch distance from each other and from the ends. The water spray must be as high as possible for best effect. From time to time, during heavy usage, the spray holes might clog up from fish debris or dirty sea water. This clog should be periodically cleaned out by rotating an inserted sharp knife or similar object. All that remains now is to carry the portable live bait well into your boat and attach it to power by means of wiring and connector. Wiring should be #14 American Wire Gauge, in order to prevent excessive voltage drop caused by lengthy wiring. Once you have completed wiring and are into your fishing trip, snag or net the bait and drop into the container. Fill the container with sea water up to two inches of the horizontal hose assembly. Turn on the pump and operate continuously, as power drain is minimum and will not affect your battery provided alternator is putting

out normal charging.

I have successfully kept live bait for eight hours at a time on many fishing trips, utilizing the portable live bait well system. The portable cooler cover can be closed during boat movement in order to prevent spillage of water into your cockpit; but I personally prefer to open the top as much as possible during use for best aeration. A point worth mentioning: it has been my experience that the changing of sea water was not necessary in order to keep fish alive in this cooler. In fact, the live bait seemed even more frisky and active when removed from the container at the end of a trip compared to the initial drop-in.

Even if your wire and power connections are covered with waterproof plastic tape, a fuse in the wiring system is strongly recommended in order to prevent pump failure due to a short circuit. Suitable size spare fuses should always be kept in your tool box for emergency use. It only takes a moment to change fuses when necessary after correcting the faulty short circuit.

After constructing this portable, economical, salt-water live bait system, all that's necessary to maintain its proper operation is to occasionally flush the entire system, including its housing, with fresh water. This will remove fish debris and saltwater contaminants that could reduce the life of your system.



LIVE BAIT WELL
WIRING SCHEMATIC

CUSTOM ROD CRAFTING

Part One: Choosing The Blank

by Mike Trailes

The first rule to remember about building a custom rod is "there ain't no rules". We build hundreds of custom rods every year and, except for matched sets, I would be hard pressed to remember any two that are exactly alike. The point is that each fisherman has different requirements—physical build, type of fishing, color preference, individual style and taste. All of these elements go into the pot to design that perfect fishing tool—a custom rod.

This series of articles will give you the basic information on rod components and building techniques to get you started. With a little practice and some determination you can be designing and building your own hand-crafted rods.

Lets begin with the most important component, the blank. If you have ever been in a tackle shop that specializes in rod building you probably would have seen a panorama of blanks with different weights, diameters and ranging in length from 4 to 14 feet. Why so many? Each type of fishing normally calls for a different size and weight blank. Manufacturers design and build their blanks in groups to fit these different categories or types of fishing, such as ultra light, light spinning, steelhead, freshwater and light saltwater, saltwater spinning, surf, trolling, etc.

You can begin your search by looking for a blank in the category that matches your style of fishing. But remember, there are no rules. Some of us are real purists (or gluttons for punishment depending on your point of view). These daredevils will build an ultra light rod weighing less than 5 oz. and go beat their brains out with 10 lb. bluefish. On the other hand you have the died-in-the-wool, fill-the-freezer meat fisherman who will build a custom rod that weighs 5 pounds and closely resembles a broomstick

and he will haul those same bluefish over the rail so fast it will make your head spin.

How you like to fish is your personal choice so pick the blank type that you feel comfortable with and don't feel restricted by a manufacturers category.

A look at any rod blank catalog will show that the blanks are all divided into the various categories and each blank has a set of specifications. Lets take a look at the sample specs from a Fenwick catalog listed below and see what they mean.

These blanks are categorized as "freshwater and light saltwater spinning". The "Number of Pieces" is self-explanatory. "Length" and "Weights" are basic information also but will help you to determine beforehand if the blank will be compatible with your physical build. "Butt size" and "Tip size" are helpful in determining the size of grips and the tip-top guide and they also tell you about the taper of the blank.

As the diameter or taper of a blank increases so does the stiffness of the blank. You will notice that #847 and #846 have small tips and relatively large butt diameters. This means a lot of taper and these blanks will be fairly stiff. By comparison #847 has a smaller butt diameter which indicates less taper and this blank will be softer or not as stiff as #845 or #846.

The most important information on the chart is contained under "action-power-lure weights". These subjects have been written about time and again, and we're going to do it one more time, because it is essential to understand how a rod blank works before you can build a good custom rod.

ACTION: The hollow, tubular construction of a rod blank gives it the ability to bend, recoil and straighten

out. This is known as "action". There are different actions, but they are all based on the amount of the blank that bends. The more of a blank that bends the longer it takes to recoil and vice versa. In describing rod action everything is related to speed or the time it takes for this bending and recoiling during the cast.

The action of an extra fast rod is just that—E-X-T-R-A FAST. Tremendous tip speed is generated very fast with a very short casting stroke. This sounds exciting and appealing but lets take a closer look. Everything happens so fast that the cast must be quick and jerky with very little time to feel the line or judge the release. Fast tip and extra-fast tip rods have become very popular for casting lighter weights with a short, snappy cast where distance is not important.

On the other hand a moderate action rod bends and recoils much slower. This gives the caster more control and more time to feel the line and make a deliberate, graceful cast.

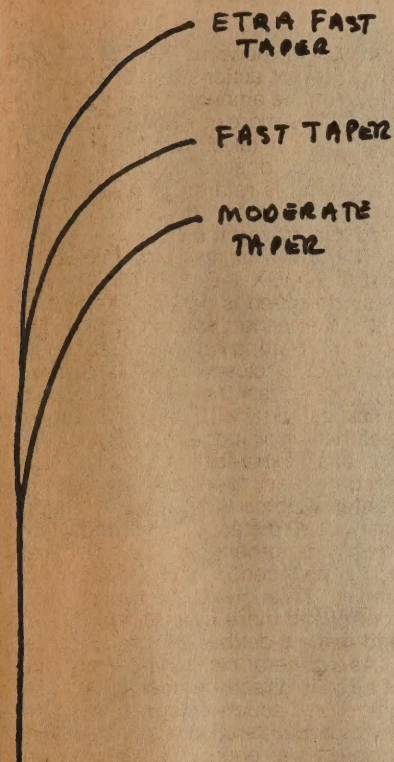
As a general rule, the performance of a rod is directly proportional to the amount of action or bend. As a rod bends it builds up energy, then as it uncoils, that energy is released and put to "work" in propelling a lure or bait or in fighting a fish. Except for some specialized fishing situations what this means is that the more fiberglass you have working for you the less you have to work. Keep this in mind and lets compare some different rod actions.

Refer back to the specification chart. #846 is an extra-fast action rod and will have the upper 1/4 or approximately 21 inches bending and recoiling, or working, during the cast. #847 is a moderate action and has the upper 1/2 or approximately 42 inches working during the cast. It should be obvious that #847 will give better performance—it develops more

MODEL NO.	LENGTH (FT.)	NO. OF PCS.	ACTION	POWER	LURE WT. (OZS.)	BUTT SIZE (IN.)	TOP SIZE (64's)	WEIGHT (OZS.)
SP845	7	1	FAST	MED.	3/8-3/4	.781	6	2 5/8
SP846	7	1	EX. FAST	MED.HVY	1/2-1 1/2	.765	6 1/2	2 5/8
SP847	7	1	MOD.	MED.HVY	1/2-1 1/2	.722	6 1/2	4

energy and will cast further with less effort than the faster action blank.

So much for casting. How about fishing a fish? The same principle holds true. The more bend in a rod offering resistance to a fighting fish the faster you will tire and beat that fish. In addition, the more the rod "works" less strain is put on the lure and reel drag.



Extra Fast Action Upper 1/4 Bends
Fast Action Upper 1/3 Bends
Moderate Upper 1/2 Bends

There are certain situations where a stiffer rod with less action is desirable. Fast and extra-fast action blanks are generally very stiff tapering quickly to a light, sensitive tip. They pick-up and transmit vibrations much better than moderate actions which have a tendency to absorb those vibrations before they reach the angler. This sensitivity is very important, for example, in feeling a bass suck in a rubber worm or a weakfish mouth a light bucktail. In order to work certain plugs properly or to make a bucktail bounce along the bottom you cannot have too much action in the rod—or the rod will work (or bend) and not move the lure. The stiffer, fast-action rods are ideal for making a jig or popper come alive. Many rod-builders will cut some or all of the action off a fast or extra fast tip to make their rods as stiff as possible.

1. To cast a lure or bait.
2. To hook and fight a fish.
3. To import action to a lure.

You must determine which of these is most important in your rod and choose the type of blank with the action you are most comfortable with to get the job done. A trout fisherman who frequents small streams with tight casting space might pick a very light, extra-fast action rod so he can present light lures with short casts—that is most important for his style of fishing. On the other hand a shark fisherman does not have to cast or work a lure so he might choose a heavy, medium-action rod to offer as much resistance to the fish when he hooks up. But again, there are no rules so if you want to go shark fishing with the trout rod that's your choice. By the way, it would not be a first—it's already been done—many times.

POWER: Again refer back to the spec chart. The "power" terms are just descriptive and relative to one another. #846 is medium-heavy or more powerful than the medium 845 simply because it is designed to cast more weight. That is the important information—the weight range. Power is simply the ability of a blank to handle specified weights. If you do not stay within these specified weights you will not get optimum performance from your rod. If you exceed the maximum weight and overload the rod the action will become sluggish and the timing of your cast will be thrown off. The same holds true for too little weight which will not bend that rod sufficiently during the cast. Thereby wasting most of the action of the rod. If you underload or overload your rod you can expect to be frustrated by poor casting, lack of distance and accuracy and frequent line break-offs.

Rod manufacturers increase power by making the blank wall thicker or by increasing the diameter of the blank. Compare #846 and 847 and look at the powers. As we have noted 846 has more taper or more diameter over all than 847 but they are of equal power. What 847 lacks in diameter is made up in wall thickness, this the heavier blank weight (4 oz.).

As a rod crafter you won't be able to do anything about wall thickness but, if you want to increase the power of a blank, you can increase the tip diameter by simply cutting some of the tip off. Let's use 847 as an example. It is rated to handle up to 1½ ounces. If you hung a 1½ oz. weight from the top of the blank and held it horizontal you would notice a slight bend or deflection of about 1 inch. This is normal deflection. Now, if you liked that particular blank but wanted to cast 3 oz. with it you have to cut some of the tip off and increase the tip diameter. This takes a little experimenting and you should cut only about an inch at a time. After each cut hang a 3 oz. weight from the tip. Keep cutting until you get approximately the same deflection as you did with 1½ oz. You would

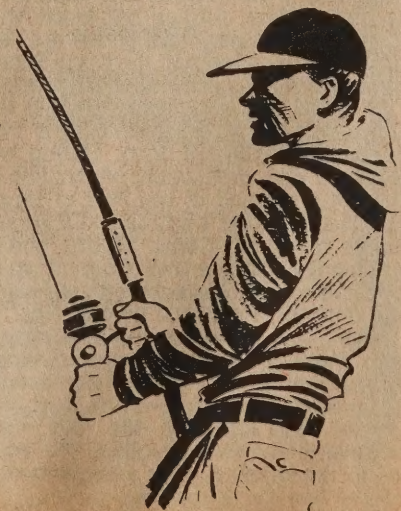
probably have to cut between 3-6 inches off the tip and increase the tip size to about a #8 before you got a normal deflection. If you are not daring and would rather check before you cut, hang the 3 oz. weight from a short string or rubber band. Hold the blank horizontal, and slide the weight back from the tip checking deflecting every inch or so. This will give you an idea of how much you will have to cut.

You can go overboard with this. If you were to cut the same blank to handle 6 oz. you would probably wind up with a 4 ft. rod. If you have to increase power too much, go to a more powerful blank.

Action and power are the key factors in choosing the proper blank. You might run into some unfamiliar terms such as dampering, modulus and other technical jargon regarding the physical properties of rod blank materials, but the terms mean the same as the basics we described above. Let the manufacturers and their engineers worry about the jargon. It is their job to make sure, when you buy a quality blank, that it has the right "sprong" and that the "clipsit" doesn't shake too much. Stick to the basics of action and power and don't confuse yourself with technical mumbo-jumbo.

The best way to fully appreciate what we're trying to describe is to hold a rod first-hand. There are many tackle shops which specialize in rod-building and have experts on hand to assist you and a visit to one of these shops where you can look at and compare some rod blanks and have a professional rod builder answer any questions you might have will ease the effort if it's your first attempt.

By now you should have a basic understanding of how a rod blank works. If you have not taken up model airplane building in the meantime, next week we will get into the other components parts—grips, reel seats and guides and what to do with them.



ADVANTAGES OF SMALL BOATS

by Martin & Janet Garrell

If anyone asked for a characterization of activity on Long Island's waters over the last ten years or so, it would have to be described as the era of the Big Boat. In earlier times one would see any number of fishermen in dinghies, dories, and thirteen footers happily hauling in their stripers or blues, and until the mid-1960s, a sixteen foot Lyman with a 25 h.p. engine or a similar rig, was considered by many to be the ultimate for whatever angling activity was to be enjoyed around Long Island. Now an open console Mako or Aquasport in the twenty to twenty-five foot class is considered ideal, and the 25 h.p. kicker has been replaced by mighty power plants boasting horsepower in the three figure range. Every weekend we are surrounded by beautifully designed, well-powered, thoroughly equipped boats that to yesterday's fisherman, would have seemed capable of ocean cruises. There is one observation to be made, however: bigger boats don't mean bigger fish or more fish.

We've had a good chance to watch the Long Island marine scene from the bottom up, so to speak, during our years of running around in a twelve foot Fiberglass Gamefisher, powered by an old 7½ h.p. motor. We relied on this rig partly because of lack of space for anything bigger, but mainly because of a desire to avoid a case of "a boat is a hole in the water into which you pour money." In any case our dinghy (or dinky) has allowed us to learn a lot about what is needed and what is unnecessary for successful fishing.

Operating with a cartopper or a small trailerable boat has a number of advantages. Primarily, it allows one to go where the fish are. If a report comes in that the weaks are hitting off a particular beach, the boat can be driven up to the area, carried across fifty feet or so of sand; loaded, launched, and lines put in the water immediately. This portability is a great asset in our part of the Island (the North Fork) where the launching ramps are few and far between and, with a couple of exceptions, all on the Peconic Bay side. We've been especially grateful for the dinky when fishing picks up on the Sound because we've been able to get to some nice runs of fluke and weakfish, as well as fluke, porgies, and blackfish, that were difficult to reach for larger craft, which are restricted to the one good launching ramp on the North Shore in Mattituck Inlet or to poorer ramps off Kenny's beach and Pier Avenue.

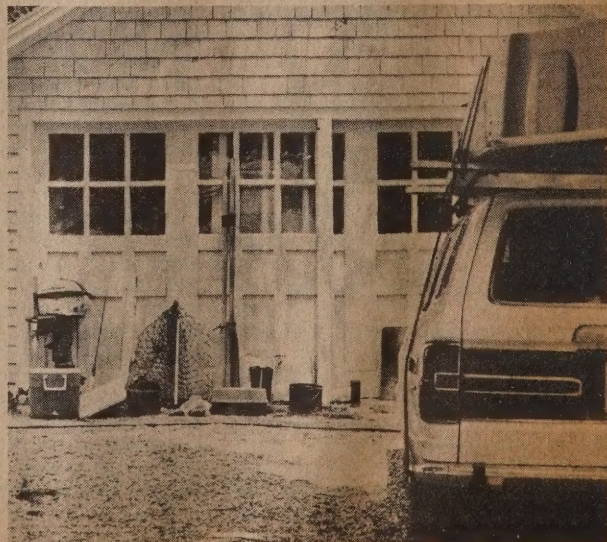
A small boat also gives greater flexibility of fishing time: one isn't restricted to the hours when private launching ramps are open. During the weakfish run in Southold Bay, the number of cars and trailers lined up for the 6AM opening of the Port of Egypt ramp resembles rush hour on the Long Island Expressway. Meanwhile, we've driven to Cedar Beach, one-quarter mile from productive Jessup's Neck Buoy 17, to catch the 4:30 a.m. tide and are heading back with our catch in the boat about the time the first of the fleet arrives.

Being able to launch the boat right at the fishing site also makes it possible to determine water conditions before putting out. One of our favorite fishing areas in Shinnecock Bay is around the Inlet and the Coast Guard Station. We drive to the end of Dune Road from Southampton and are right at the Inlet and can see how rough the water is. With a larger boat, we'd have to haul all the way across the bay.

Naturally a small boat makes it possible to explore creeks and marshlands, too. When weaks are in the creeks at night or fluke are in the drains, the small boatman has



Jan leaves the dinghy with a stringer of fluke taken on an evening tide near Mattituck Inlet.



Cartoppers can go anywhere for launching. Note the gear we pack aboard on a typical trip.

the winning cards. Likewise, on a perfectly still evening in coastal waters he can row quietly and gently up to a school of surfacing blues or weaks without putting them down with the drone of an engine.

A final and not inconsiderable advantage of a dinky is the enormous savings of gasoline. By early September, we're into only our second ten gallons of fuel, and a total of twenty gallons sees us through the entire season!

Obviously, it's not always clear sailing for the small boat skipper, whose most severe limitation is weather. When the wind blows to any degree, the little boat is simply out of the question. On Peconic Bay or Long Island Sound, we fish comfortably in onshore winds under ten knots and with wave heights under one foot. When the winds pick up to twelve and the waves show their teeth, no matter how sensational the fishing, we turn tail and get back to the launch site. Also, there have been many times when fish are running and we simply could not get to them because of rough seas.

The smaller the craft, the more choosy the angler must be in deciding exactly what gear to bring. There's just not that much storage space in a typical skiff or cartopper. We carry essential gear for fishing one target species and maybe one alternate, and we give up the options of trying for everything that swims in the area with all possible techniques available to the modern Izaak Walton. Because we insist on icing down our catch, we use the well under the middle seat as an ice chest, thus sacrificing storage space for the sake of fresh fish.

Distinct disadvantages of small boat angling are the set-up and take-down times required and the muscular effort involved in carrying gear: both cartoppers and boats on small trailers require a coordinated two-man operation for beach launching. By properly organizing, a boat can be readied for take-off in fifteen minutes, but heaving and hauling must be done carefully to avoid pulled muscles.

Safety rules are not to be taken lightly. Once on the water, the dinky is easily rocked by big boats when the larger craft cruise by with no thought given to their wake sizes. Consequently, one should fish from sitting positions most of the time, standing only when the situation absolutely demands it and when there is no danger involved. In a small two-man boat, problems are seldom encountered in moving from port to starboard and back again when a fast-running fish changes gears, but we avoid any potential difficulty by having the unoccupied angler haul up and help maneuver the boat.

It's essential to carry a full complement of safety equipment, including good flotation devices, a set of well-fitting oars to row the boat effectively, and a good anchor with lots of line. (Our choice has been an eight pound Danforth with one hundred feet of line.) The engine should be kept in top operating condition and should always be accompanied by a tool kit including commonly needed spare parts like cotter pins, shear pins, and spark plugs.

Wise choice of launch sites provides another safety factor. By launching as close as possible to a fishing area, one avoids facing a run of many miles across an open stretch of water at the day's end when weather conditions may have changed drastically. This was the first and almost the last lesson we learned in our early days of dinky fishing. We had made a long run in the morning calm from Southold to South Ferry during the flounder season. The latter part of the morning was spent fishing in a cove off Shelter Island, and when we pulled out to return, we faced what looked like raging seas, whipped up by fifteen miles per hour winds. It was a slow, scary trip back to Southold, but we learned to watch the weather carefully and not to stray too far from home base.

Aside from that one hair-raising adventure, we have had a great relationship with our small boat. The precautions outlined above are basically those that should be observed by all boat operators, and the limitations, we feel, are far outweighed by the advantages. We enjoy being independent of launching ramps, standard fishing hours, and the usual fishing areas. There is real satisfaction in fishing our own spots, picking our own times, and catching fish unattended by the fleet. For us, a small boat is an essential piece of fishing equipment.

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1978 at Montauk

by Capt. John DeMaio

This is my third annual report of the fishing season at Montauk. Once again, I would like it made clear that this is the way I saw the fishing scene. It may disagree with many who had a different view.

The most impressive happening this year was the battle over the twenty-six inch striped bass bill. As with many bills which involve a cross index of our population, controversy raged daily. Fishermen argued pro and con over the bill's merits. Some even expressed their opinions in this paper. In the end, the commercial guys who said nothing in print, won the battle. Just as well! The bill was unfair to certain groups and many individuals. Also, its biological worth was believed to be unsound by many knowledgeable people.

Let's take the whole season from the beginning and record the different species as we catch them. Montauk gets started a little later than the rest of the Island. My first trip was April 21.

Codfishing had been very good early this year for the headboats that were in the water and fishing. Some great catches of school cod were being made south of Block Island. Even the south side of Montauk had come to life with an invasion of small school cod, the likes of which had not been seen here for over six years. I was hot to get the boat in the water for some of this solid action.

I rode two hours south of Block Island that first trip and landed one cod for the day's fishing. Heavy groundswells and dirty water was the excuse for such a poor day; yet it was a prediction of what a disappointment the spring fishing



That's Jim, Tom, and Ed with 10 bass caught off Montauk in a "smokey southwester." All ten were taken on De-May-O jigs aboard the "Vivienne."

would be compared to the previous season of 1977. Except for a few solid catches, the pollack never showed themselves like the year before.

My next three trips to the same area never gave me more than thirty cod for the day. Finally, on the fourth trip I managed sixty-five cod, about 400 lbs. Ninety percent were taken on clam bait—not as jigs as the year before. The next day it went back to a mere eighteen codfish.

My best codfishing was done closer to home. Several days that I

would say were "good," bailed out the spring cod run—the best being the ninety-two cod trip. A total weight of 800 lbs., including three dozen flounder I stopped for at Shagwong on the way home.

My best trip south of Block Island was on May 30 and it was the tops for that area: forty-four cod with at least four in the 30 lb. class and six more in their twenties.

On May 2, I made my first flounder trip. The score was thirty-four flounders for four hours fishing. All the fish were large. They would have filled a bushel. The area was Promised Land. I made at least six more trips there and never could do better than three dozen flounders. What lacked in numbers more than made up for in size. The average was a little over two pounds; many fish weighed three-and-a-half pounds. The best flounder catch was sixty flounders at Shagwong; mixed sizes. About ninety pounds.

What helped the spring fishing was the mild and pleasant weather we had. Possibly the best springtime in a number of years. The spring fishing of '77 was a tough act to follow. Although '78 seemed a letdown because of that, it still held a promise of better fishing this forthcoming year. All those school cod I mentioned are a good sign. After all, it was only seven years back that the Point area was loaded with four pound cod that stayed right up until striped bass began to feed. Better still, the stringent rule for offshore commercial fishermen may take the pressure off the flatfish stocks and snowshoe flounder may return to the Montauk area, like the Fifties. WOW!

Although some bass were taken prior to June 1 (the Adios had a good catch just before), I did not connect until the first. That day, I managed six bass. The first fish of the season being the largest—forty-eight pound bass. June was to be the best month of the year for bass.

Total catch for the entire month of June was 336 bass; a total of eight fish a trip. The highlight was the Bob Soohoo party with sixteen bass up to 38 lbs. Not only were the fish consistent in June, but large. My worst trip in June was with Bob Gonzales: one little bluefish and a bass. This was to be the pattern that continued throughout the year. Or tide action.

July started off like gangbusters with nineteen bass on the mornin'

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trip for Joe Gianturco and friends. The rest of the month yielded enough bass to make it worthwhile to fish them. The total for July was 157 bass. Towards the end of July, the bass began to thin out drastically. All in all, between a few bass, many blues, weaks and porgies, July was a good fishing month. The weather was good, which helped.

After August 11, I never had a bass the rest of the month. August's total was fourteen bass. The weather worsened. Day after day of thick fog, and rain, did not help. The action around the Point simply died. All the bait that was there in July vanished. Not only were the bass scarce, bluefish were to be found only at distant areas such as the Sub Buoy. Even the porgy fishing became tough around the Point. After the abundance of fish life that surrounded the Point in July, it was hard to believe.

What about the August moon? True, local fishermen slaughtered the bass on live eels. It boggled the mind of many recent fishermen. Total weights of over 2,000 lbs. a boat, a night, seemed incredible for the current bass scene.

It was just one of those things. What the hell; old Harry Standard took 2,800 lbs. one night single-handed on tarred lines using cedar rigs and stripped squid and that was over twenty-five years ago.

Regardless of what happened at

night, there was no daytime bass activity during the moon. Maybe a few fish were taken by casters working the south side at daybreak and nightfall. Or a trolled fish here and there during the same time periods; otherwise, it was bluefish a-plenty.

I did not catch another bass until September 11. (Last year, August and September were super good months. Highlighted by a fifty-one pound bass caught on August 24.) Not until September 20 did a few begin to show themselves. Not enough. This September was without a doubt the worst month I have ever seen at Montauk for local fishing. If anyone was to ask me to pick the best month to fish Montauk, I would normally say September. This year was by far the exception. Cartwright saved the month with a yield of very large blues that tore the hell out of Penn Reel's reputation.

During this period, I began to work on the bonitos and false albacore that surrounded the point. Although the "albies" are hard to make bite, the "bones" were very obliging. On light spin gear they provided excellent sport for many of my parties who prefer to take their fish by casting.

Some days, I took eight pound bonito out of the shallows. You could even see some take the lure. Some of my parties used poppin' plugs and had a ball with the fish. Not

only did we take these exotics and blues, I began to pick away at the bass. Eventually casting was to save many a day for me in October—fishing bass.

Next year, I would like to take more parties casting. This was my original concept when I began chartering—only to take casting parties. The first year I did plenty of it. Since then, the beaches slowly began to die and I ended up in the deep water beating a drum for diamond jigs. Not bad; but my love is in the bucktail fishing.

By the time October rolled in (the big bass month), I was beginning to wonder if a body of bass would ever show themselves. A real blitz never occurred. Once again, the previous year showed a better October. Fishing was picky; 223 bass was the best I could do.

The most remarkable thing about this month was that for about ten days the diamond jig was the hot lure. I believe this was due to an abundance of anchovies that were in the area. I outfished the best of Montauk's trollers in those ten days. Of course, the picture changed by the beginning of November and the umbrella rigs took over.

My success with the jig can be attributed to my repeat business. Those hardy souls who have been able to tolerate me over the years and have learned to master the

(Continued on next page.)



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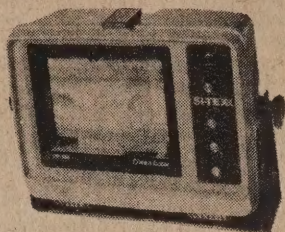
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manipulation of the jig. They understand the fishing and the problems and mostly, they take it as it comes. My hat's off to the fishermen like Dr. Piciano who took a shellacking one trip for a single bass, and then bounced back the following week to catch ten nice size bass.

The weather was also a factor this fall. September and early October were miserable. At the end of October, the weather changed for the better. By the time November rolled in, it was delightful.

The best day in October, for everyone, was October 28. I had nine that morning, but most boats had over twenty fish on umbrellas. The best I did in October was eighteen bass for Howard Kalka and Frank Rettaco. The fish were caught casting.

An encouraging aspect of the fall scene was a showing of school size bass that appeared towards the end of October and remained throughout the rest of the season. Some were small enough to be thrown back. Wait till next year!

November began with excellent weather and good fishing; yet the pattern of one productive tide maintained. An example was sixteen bass on November 3 for James Katsaros in the morning trip and only two bass for the afternoon trip.

Bass fishing was as good up until November 16: that was the last day caught bass. Then the weather changed and I never had the opportunity to try again. I heard of some hook and line fish as late as the twenty-third. My belief is that you could have taken fish right into December this past year. November total catch was 164 bass.

Bass fishing was positively down from last year. How much further we can go before we bottom out is unknown. Already wise fishermen are accepting less. Fishing the present, and not in the past.

The absolute contradiction to this is the killing the haul seiners made this fall out here on the Eastern End. They never ever had a season where they made so much money. Now let's go to the bottom fish and see how they fared:

Fluke were a big disappointment. I came to that conclusion by a general consensus of opinion. rarely fish fluke. One weekend in particular might have been the highlight of the fluke season. Even went fluking one day and caught thirty fluke for the Richard Silver party—including six fluke over five pounds. All this hot action occurred between August 21 and 28: roughly that is!

Seabass fishing was the worst. I was so bad that one day I returned to the dock with twenty pounds of seabass. For the next week, I was followed constantly by three Chinese men representing a chain of Oriental restaurants.

Good ole porgies performed rather well. I had several two and three

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hundred pound trips. I have a note in my log for June 23 ... "Porgies now in heavy." During the month of August when all the sand eels packed up and left the point, the porgy fishing slowed up badly. At times in July, I had good catches of porgies on diamond jigs.

June 23 also marked the day for my first weakfish. Once again, the previous year's fishing was far better. Maybe the early showing of blues chased the weaks out of the deep water. Unlike last year when the bluefish never showed until the end of July, the full moon period of July showed the best weakfish action all year. Nighttime fishermen who knew what they were doing really put the hurt on them. Over five hundred pounds for one man casting was a fact. At this time also, Shagwong enjoyed some solid daytime activity. Unfortunately, you had to fish through a million small blues to reach them.

The full moon of October also yielded weaks at night; but nowhere near as much as July. I took two hundred pounds one night myself while casting for bass. It was an eight pound average. Nice sport on fifteen pound test line.

Offshore fishing was down from last year.

Bluefin tuna were once again in focus, but mostly the schoolies. In fact, the school tuna fishing was hot for awhile in mid-summer, with many boats bagging the limit allowed by law. Some of this action was no further than an average hour's boat ride from the Lighthouse.

Even I tried for school tuna on a half day's trip. That's how close they were. One oceanic bonito was all I could manage, before giving in and bailing out with a mess of bluefish on the way home. That was my first offshore trip in at least twenty years.

Swordfish were as scarce as white whales. White marlin weren't much and those giant makos from last year vanished.

About the great white shark: Captain John Sweetman did harpoon a huge shark that towed his boat steadily for over ten hours. It was no hoax. The captain never did say he stuck a great white.

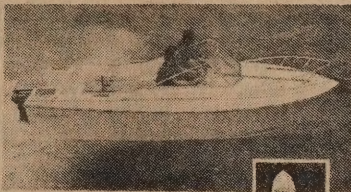
The news media was responsible for blowing it out of proportion. At first, they presented it like a great adventure. By the second day after the fish broke loose, every clown who stood up in front of a television camera, or sat behind a typewriter, played the event up as a big put-on. It was only coincidental that this spectacle was on time with the release of the movie "Jaws II" all over the country. Captain Sweetman was the only one who kept it in perspective. It was just another big one that got away.

Finally bluefish. Where would we be without bluefish? They enter our waters in the springtime by the

(Continued on page 52.)

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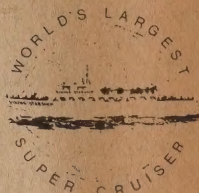
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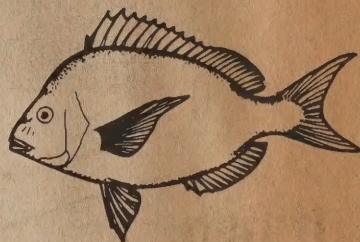
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HINT #1: *After assembling the frames and keel (above photo taken mid-Nov.) it will take 4 to 6 months for completion.*

★ Several more hints and photos will appear periodically during the construction ★

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NATIONAL SCENE (Continued from page 20.)

haven't come close to filling it each of the past two years that it's been in existence. The success of the school tuna plan will be contingent on withdrawal of the Canadian tuna seiner that has been loading up off our coast every summer. Officials at NMFS feel that the Canadians will cooperate. Since the present system has been causing a great deal of frustration and hasn't succeeded in building up a viable population of school tuna, the proposed plan seems to be a very practical approach. Public hearings will be scheduled shortly and tuna fishermen should be sure to study the proposals carefully before commenting. The survival of the most powerful game fish is at stake!

All Record Keeping Now Concentrated in IGFA

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA), under the dynamic leadership of Elwood Harry, is rapidly bringing together all record keeping under one roof. Long recognized as the only official source of salt water records, IGFA has now taken over the duties that other organizations had assumed in freshwater and specialized areas. The first big move involved assumption of freshwater record keeping from **Field & Stream**. Since the unique nature of fly rod fishing prevents such records from falling neatly into IGFA classifications, the Saltwater Fly Rodders of America was formed during the Sixties. That organization has now turned over their records to IGFA, as has the International Spin Fishing Association (ISFA). The latter group has long kept records for fish caught on spinning tackle in line classes from two to twelve pound test.

The only hold-out now is the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in Wisconsin. That relatively new group started a freshwater record system, based on line classes and types of gear, just a few years ago. Just about every freshwater fish (including many non-game species) is included, and hundreds of classifications remain unfilled. The Hall of Fame appears determined to maintain its own records and is waging a small war with **Field & Stream** and IGFA over the freshwater records. Hopefully, this situation will be straightened out in the not too distant future.

As it is, IGFA has plenty of problems in just trying to come up with an equitable system of handling freshwater records without deviating too far from the saltwater standards. For instance, IGFA has only recently come around to allowing a pair of treble hooks on a plug that is cast. This still makes many saltwater plugs "illegal," but would have an even greater effect in freshwater. If IGFA is to be successful in this endeavor it must tailor the freshwater rules to generally accepted American sporting standards, rather than to the present international saltwater rules.

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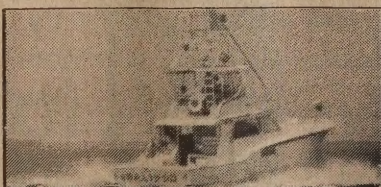
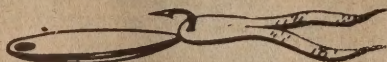
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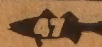


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No more. Modern man called that "wasting to the sea." He had other ideas. He would control all that free-running water.

He built dams, dikes, and diversions; levees, locks and canals. Where water inconveniently ran in crooked courses, he channeled it. Where it ran too shallow, he dredged. Where it ran the wrong way, he turned it around. And often, where he did let it return to the sea, he filled it with wastes.

Up to a point it worked. Some of America's waters could now be used for irrigation, cities, industry, power generation, sewage disposal and transportation. And still many of our waters were left to their own devices, providing their natural, less tangible benefits to man.

But then the balance swung.

In many places there was an overkill of manipulation and use. Lakes died. Rivers became conduits of sewage and toxic wastes; others were turned into a series of

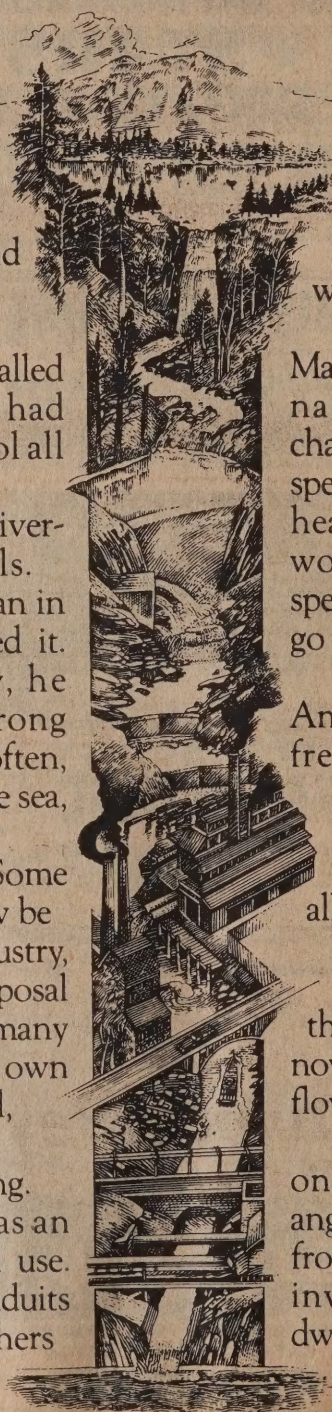
still ponds. Magnificent streams and awesome canyons were drowned. Fresh waters turned salty.

Fish are among the casualties. Many of them chemically contaminated. Much of their habitat changed—fouled and stilled. Those special conditions necessary for the health and propagation of our worthiest sport and commercial species, gone. As our waters go, so go our fisheries.

The American League of Anglers believes that natural and free-flowing waterways are more than pleasant amenities for fishermen. Their ecological health is essential to man as well as to all forms of wildlife.

We are committed to preserving a proper balance between the need for water manipulation now and the desire for pure, free-flowing waters forever.

We act and speak for this goal on a national level. We urge all anglers, who receive extra benefits from good water, to participate. We invite all those who revere our dwindling stock of natural waters to support our efforts.



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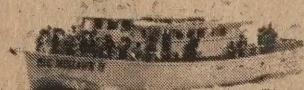
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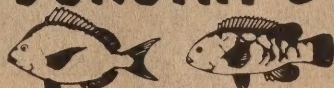
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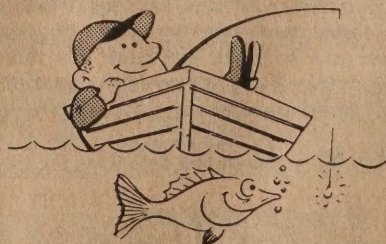
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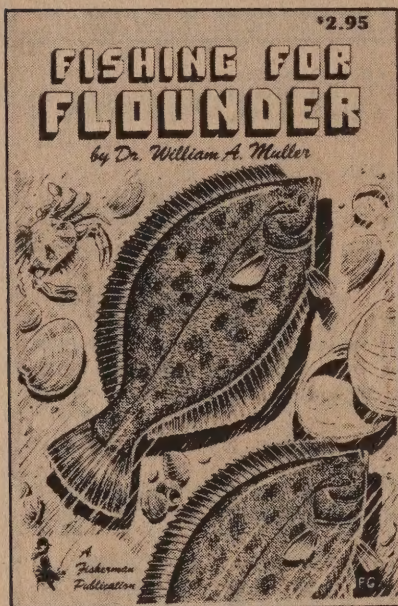
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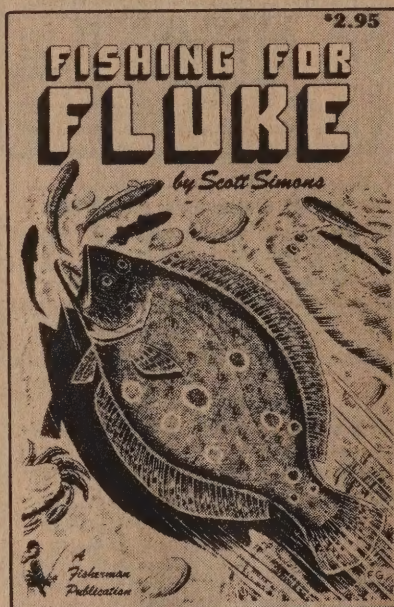
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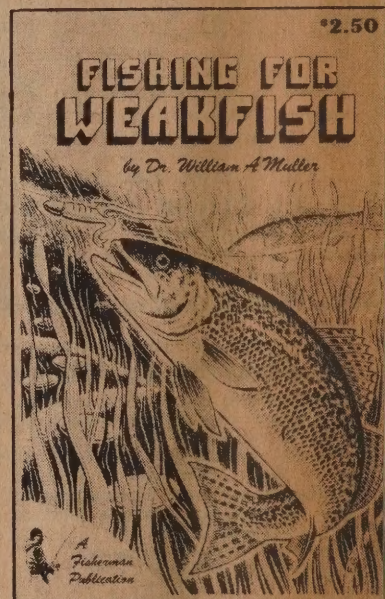


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L.I.F. AT N.Y. BOAT SHOW

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We'll be on the Third Floor; so top by and say hello.



The Viking Starship which, for the winter is sailing from Stock Island in Key West, Florida, announces an introductory special for a limited time only for people headed south this winter. It will be a fisherman's package with a rate of \$250 per person for a seven day week. Lodging is aboard the vessel (no motel expenses). This includes 67 hours of solid fishing, including all tackle and bait plus sightseeing and snorkeling. There is a full restaurant aboard. Captain Paul Forsberg says you can make your expenses plus. The current dockside prices for your catch are presently \$1.10 per pound. Those interested can call the numbers listed in the Viking Fleet Ad on the Montauk page.

The Marlin IV reported that while codfishing is on the slow side, the weekday tilefishing trips have been producing good catches of the tasty, deepwater fish.



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FISH TALK (Continued from page 22.)

season.

NUMBER SIX. "When cleaning (flounder), I leave the meat on the bones and only fillet just before cooking, but I always run afoul of that one long pointed bone in the (neck?) portion. I find myself either being stabbed with it (the bone) or dulling my blade while hacking through it. How do you deal with it?" I try to fillet the flounders that I catch as quickly as possible. I believe that this procedure offers the best chance of keeping the meat of the fish in good condition. Next, I try not to be stingy when I fillet. I am content to get most of the meat—not all of it. Thus, I can fillet a flounder quickly without being stabbed by any bones.

NUMBER SEVEN. "I have always been told that flounders love sunny days in the spring and late fall, and if the day is cloudy or rainy to stay home. Do you concur?" Yes and no. I don't think clouds and rain are inhibiting, but I do think that wind is an important factor. I have never done very well on some very windy days, but I have some excellent scores on cloudy and rainy days. In fact, the best day of flounder fishing that I ever had was during a snow, sleet, and rain-storm. The wind, however,

stayed below twenty miles per hour and the fish kept coming. We left the fish biting because we were cold and wet.

NUMBER EIGHT. "How do you cook flounder roe?" Easy to answer this one. I neither cook nor eat fish roe. I suspect that if you knew how many toxic substances are concentrated in fish roe, you wouldn't eat it anymore, either.

William Ahlers of New Hyde Park, N.Y. recently wrote a letter after reading *Fish Populations at Power Plants* in a recent issue. Bill Ahlers points out that there is excellent flounder fishing to be had near the Shoreham power plant. "I was wondering why you didn't mention the winter flounder and the effects of the warm water outflow on this old reliable species." Unfortunately, I don't know what the effects on this fishery will be. In fact, that was the point of the column. We need to study the place carefully, both before and after the plant is in full operation in order to evaluate any bad effects. This information will help us to make future decisions when other power plants are proposed.



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1978 AT MONTAUK (Continued from page 43.)

millions and stay until December. They fight like demons and provide great sport for everyone. Add to this their food value and the results are the backbone of the recreational fishing industry.

Some bluefish began taking hold in Montauk the last week in May: fish about four pounds.

All through June, I picked away at the blues. These fish were incidental catches made whilst fishing for bass. Some umbrella rig fishermen were doing better.

At the end of July, I began to run to the Sub Buoy for the blues. Although the Point still held some bass fishing and a strong population of blues, it was mostly a one tide shot. July 24 and 25 kind of highlighted July's fishing. Over one thousand pounds of fish for two full day charters. Included were twenty-five weakfish and seven bass.

Blues were available all season at the Sub Buoy. At times, it was picky and tides played an important part in the fishing of that area.

This year, the fabled "Triangle" grounds was a bust. Some of the trollers worked it for awhile and had success, but very little.

I began fishing Cartwright the last week of September. Big slammers jumped on the jigs and flattened every drag washer on the boat. An average weight was around eight pounds. Many fish sixteen pounds and over were taken.

It is my opinion that bluefish are grossly exaggerated when it comes to weight—like flounders! A run of fish averaging eight pounds amounts to big bluefish.

About the sizes: this year saw an abundance of very small bluefish. Some stuff no larger than big snappers. Not only at Montauk, but from what my customers told, up and down the Island.

This year, I am offering the total weight of all the bluefish caught on my boat this past season as a contest: Send a post card to Captain DeMaio, P.O. Box 275, Montauk, N.Y. 11954. All entries must be postmarked no later than January 18. In case of a tie, the first card received will be the winner. The answer and winner will appear in the "Chum Lines" of this paper in the January 25 Issue. Remember now, the closest guess to the total weight of all the bluefish caught last season is a winner.

What you will win is free tuition to my fishing class to be held this winter. Classes will be held evenings at Seaford High School, Seaford. If for some reason you cannot, or do not, wish to attend the classes, one of my custom made diamond jigging rods will be offered as an alternate prize. Good Luck.



Gregg Costello, L.I.F. Publisher Rich Reina; Hank Altenkirch and Artie Latch with the results of a morning goose shoot in the Southampton area.

GREAT SOUTH BAY ★ BEST BET ★ CODFISH

CAPTREE

Captain Speedy Hubert of the Speedy VI was hopeful that the much improved codfishing of the past several days would continue. While the fishing was not great by any means, the Captain termed it as now being worthwhile. Fish are running anywhere from 10-40 lbs. with whiting and ling mixed in. Fishing area has been about 16 or 17 miles S.W. of F.I. Inlet on open bottom, an hour's run for the Speedy VI.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE ★ BEST BET ★ WHITING

FREEPORT

Captain Richie Kessinger of the

Starstream II reported "decent" codfishing the latter part of last week continuing into the weekend. Friday's catch came to twenty-three fish for fifteen fares; while Sunday's fishing resulted in 13 cod for the few anglers who turned out despite questionable weather reports. Fish have been averaging 10-20 lbs., with 30-40 lb. pool fish each trip. Captain Richie has been fishing open bottom in 105 ft. of water, a one to one-and-a-half hour's run from Jones Inlet.

ISLAND PARK

Steve Weitzen called to report a catch of six cod up to 40 lbs. made over the weekend on Joe Masone's "Debra." The fish were taken on open bottom in 110' of water, 140' out of Jones Inlet.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Your reporter made a whiting trip Saturday aboard the Dorothy B with Capt. Kevin at the wheel. Fishing at Ambrose, all passengers aboard, Yours Truly included, loaded up on whiting up to about 3 lbs. with several 3-5 lb. ling also taken. Also aboard on a busman's holiday was Capt. Joe Long of the Freeport charterboat Nite Owl. A tip we might pass along is to shorten up on the leaders (snells) so that they hold the hook about 4" away from the main line. This enables you to feel the strike more readily.

Captain Jim of the New Amberjack V spoke of excellent whiting fishing in this past week. Fish are being taken in bag-filling quantities and are averaging 2-3 lbs. Clams, herring and squid have been equally effective.

BELLMORE

Merrick Marine Supplies tells us the only info of any import right now is that the whiting fishing from boats fishing the N.Y. Bight area particularly around Ambrose are doing a good job on whiting up to 1 lbs.



L.I.F. AT NEW YORK BOAT SHOW

The Long Island Fisherman will again have a booth at the National Boat Show. The show is at the N.Y. Coliseum and runs from January 13-21.

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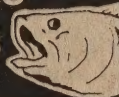
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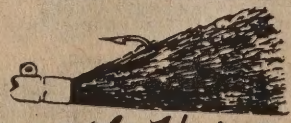
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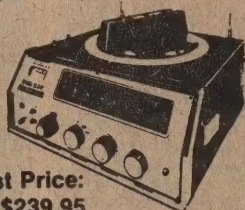
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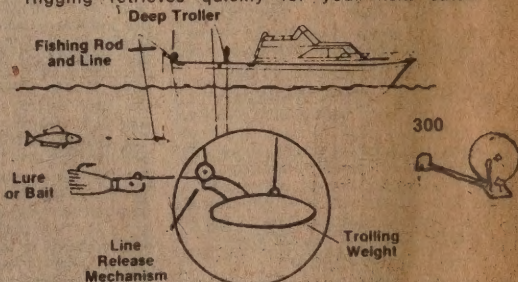
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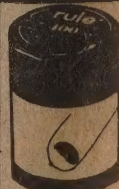
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